

THE
DISAPPOINTED HEIR:

OR,

MEMOIRS

OF THE

ORMOND FAMILY.

A N O V E L.

IN TWO VOLUMES.

By A. GOMERSALL,

Author of *Eleonora*, *Citizen*, &c.

VOL. I.

EXETER:

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IMPRESSED with a lively Sense of Gratitude, for the very flattering and marked Approbation with which her former literary Productions have hitherto been honored --- the Author respectfully submits the following Memoirs to the Attention of a candid and generous Public. --- As the Tendency of the Work is strictly Moral, she presumes to hope it will be distinguished by an equal degree of Favor.

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THE DISAPPOINTED HEIR.

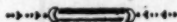
CHAPTER I.

“ From rescued candle ends obtains a sum,
“ And starves to add a penny to a plum.”—

YOUNG'S SATIRES.

A Series of uninterrupted prosperity, often proves a far greater enemy to the mind, than a state of adversity. ---- Of this, Mr. Thomas Ormond was a most striking instance. ----- Adverse fortune persecuted him through a few years of his youth; he then was generous and benevolent in his disposition, even beyond his abilities; inso-much, that he has been known frequently to sacrifice *selfish* gratifications to relieve the real wants of others, and whenever he breathed a wish for wealth, it was for the sole purpose of having it in his power to extend his liberality. An account of his life will sufficiently shew the mutability of human
B nature.

THE DISAPPOINTED HEIR.



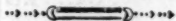
nature. At the age of eighteen, he was placed as an under clerk in the counting-house of Mr. Dawes, an opulent merchant in the city of London. His strict integrity, and close application to business, soon distinguished him as one deserving every mark of encouragement, and he was in consequence rapidly promoted, till he obtained the place of confidential clerk. --- This post he held with great credit and reputation, until he had attained the twenty-sixth year of his age. Mr. Dawes, about that time, began rather to decline in his health, and finding an inclination to relax a little from the cares and fatigue of business, took Mr. Ormond into partnership, who, in a few months after, became the husband of Miss Dawes, with whom he received a fortune of several thousand pounds, and Mr. Dawes having no other child, she was, of course, heiress to all his property. Three children were the fruits of this union, two daughters (who died in their infancy) and one son, named Henry, after his grandfather. On the birth of this last, Mr. Dawes purchased an estate of four thousand pounds per ann. in Somersetshire, and in compliment to his son-in-law, gave the mansion
upon

upon it, the title of Ormond Lodge, and furnished it in a superb stile. When Mrs. Ormond was up from her lying-in, they all went to spend a few weeks there. --- On the young folks expressing themselves delighted with the place, the old gentleman said, with a faint smile:

“ Well, my children, I am only holding
 “ this estate in *trust* for you, during the
 “ *term* of my natural life, and I am strongly
 “ inclined to believe that term nearly ex-
 “ pired.”

They were for the moment much shocked at his expression; but, judging it to proceed from a lowness of spirits, to which he had been long subject, took little notice of it to him, but endeavored to dissipate every melancholy idea by cheerful conversation. Mr. Dawes had, however, spoken prophetically, for, a few days afterwards, he died in a fit of apoplexy.

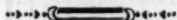
His will put Mr. Ormond immediately in possession of all his property, except a few small legacies to distant relations, and two or three of his old servants. --- Avarice presently became his ruling passion, --- every noble principle, every amiable propensity was sacrificed to it, and he might truly be



said to be plunged into *poverty*, by the acquisition of *great riches*, since he now found himself *too poor* to spare any thing for the purposes of benevolence; nor was it without reluctance, that he would part with any thing to defray the necessary expences of his family. His business he would not relinquish, “because it would produce a “yearly addition to his already large, though “useless store.”---It was necessary to live upon the spot to superintend it himself, and “the expence of keeping two houses, “was both unnecessary and extravagant.” He therefore let Ormond lodge, furnished as it was, and confined himself and family to his town residence, through all seasons of the year.---Mrs. Ormond had been accustomed to elegant life, had been indulged by her father with the gratification of every wish her heart could form; but being of a meek, gentle disposition, and entertaining high ideas of conjugal duty, made no opposition to the tyrannic will of her husband; but submitted without a murmuring expression to the deprivation of all those enjoyments, which her fortune gave her a right to command. Mr. Ormond thought “a carriage an unnecessary thing in *London*, where hacks could

“be

“be had at any time;” *his* was therefore laid by, and the horses sold. Keeping company was not only an expence without profit, but was injurious in other respects, being a mean of detaching the mind from a proper attention to more important concerns, and poor Mrs. Ormond was obliged to limit herself to the society of her husband, whose conversation was confined to two subjects, viz. *merchandize* and *economy*.---Of the former she understood little; but practice and experience soon made her a proficient in the latter. The infantine endearments of her little Henry, seemed to Mrs. Ormond an equivalent for the loss of all other pleasures, and her fondness for him increased daily, notwithstanding the difficulties she perpetually underwent on his account; for, as Mr. Ormond’s covetousness increased with his riches, it grew to an alarming height: His table was meanly furnished, and the heir of his house very reluctantly supplied with *necessary* cloathing and attendance. When the boy was at a proper age to receive instruction, Mrs. Ormond proposed his being placed at a capital seminary; but Mr. Ormond would by no means agree to a mode of education *so expensive*; “the boy would be



"ruined in his morals, *he* should be ruined
 "in his fortune, and reduced to beggary in his
 "old age."---To contend against such a
weighty argument as this was impossible, and
 Mrs. Ormond, therefore, made no reply,
 which he considered as giving up the point;
 but, willing to condescend a little, he voluntarily
 gave permission for her sending him to a
 cheap day-school in the neighbourhood, for
 the purpose of learning to read and write,
 which he said "was all the education necessary
 "sary for a citizen." As this did not concur
 with her ideas, she declined the favor, and
 observed "that the expence of *that* had
 "better be saved, as she herself could teach
 "him to read, and one of the young men in
 "the counting-house might teach him to
 "write at his leisure." Mr. Ormond heartily
 rejoiced at this saving, complimented his wife
 very highly upon her prudence and discretion,
 and assured her "the plan was a *very*
 "eligible one, and infinitely pleasing to him."
 This method was accordingly adopted, 'till
 Henry was turned twelve years old, at which
 time death deprived him of his maternal
 friend and instructor; a loss which severely
 afflicted his feeling mind:---But Mr. Ormond
 was more easily consoled for the loss of his
 wife

wife, by the *prudent* consideration, that his expences might thereby be lessened. A fresh regulation took place in the family immediately;---servants without a mistress were apt to be extravagant: He would therefore keep only *one* maid, whose conduct and management he could himself overlook without much trouble; and as he wanted but little waiting upon, the *foot-boy* might as well be discharged. With these new arrangements he was highly pleased, and warmly congratulated himself on having reduced the sum total of his expences within the narrow limits of *three hundred a year*. The cultivation of Henry's mind was all this time miserably neglected; happily his mother had given him a taste for reading, and an excellent library (which had been his grandfather's) supplied him with the means of gratifying that taste to advantage. He was endowed by nature with an understanding rarely equalled; he had acquired from books, and the instructions of his mother, a fund of *useful* knowledge; but was a total stranger to every *polite accomplishment*. As he grew up, he became too sensible of this deficiency in his education, and would gladly have supplied the defect secretly, had

not his finances been always too limited to admit it. --- Well knowing it would be needless to apply to his father on the subject, he reluctantly yielded to necessity ; privately lamenting his own ignorance, which he viewed as an insurmountable barrier to all association with persons in polite life. --- Having formed this idea, can we wonder that at the early age of nineteen, he had nearly sacrificed his future happiness to a matrimonial connection, equally degrading and disgraceful. --- Fortunately his father discovered it in time to convince him of his error, and to save him from the snare. It was now that Mr. Ormond first saw his own conduct respecting his son's education in its proper light, and appeared to regret it. --- He vowed to make reparation, by enabling him to obtain some necessary embellishments ; but the *dreadful* idea of the expence attending it powerfully deterred him. He put off the *evil day* from time to time, 'till he perceived, that the effect of Henry's late disappointment was entirely worn off, and having now nothing of that sort to dread, all inclination for his son's farther improvement vanished, and both went on as before, 'till Mr. Henry Ormond had entered his twenty-sixth

sixth year, when Mr. Ormond was seized with an indisposition, which terminated in his death. During his illness, he recollected some extraordinary instances of kindness and benevolence, he had experienced in his youth, from a gentleman who was then in high affluence, but had afterwards been unfortunate, and died poor, leaving a widow and two young daughters in circumstances of distress. Application had been made to Mr. Ormond for his assistance to put them into business, but the debt of gratitude he owed to the family had long been forgotten, and his aid was *refused*.---He now, however, wished to *pay* the debt, imagining, no doubt, it would purchase him a passport into heaven.---An attorney was called in to make his will, by which he intended bequeathing to the widow a small estate he had near London, of two hundred and fifty pounds a year.

"Imprimis. I give and bequeath"---read the attorney,---

"Stop! stop!" cried Mr. Ormond, interrupting him---"pray erase that word *give*, I don't like it."

"I think, Sir,"---said the attorney---"I have not mistaken the nature of your in-



“structions; I understood, from what you
 “said in conversation, that you did not in-
 “tend said estate *ever* to return into your
 “own family, but, that you meant Mrs.
 “F----- to have it out and out, and I have
 “written to that effect.”

“Very true,”---returned Mr. Ormond,
 ---“I do not mean that estate *ever to come*
 “*back into my family, but for Mrs. F-----*
 “*to have it out and out*:---My objection is
 “to the word *give*, I have had an antipathy
 “to it for many years, therefore erase that,
 “and then I dare say it will do.”

“Are you aware, Sir,”---replied the at-
 “torney,---“that, if I erase the word you
 “object to, I cannot convey the bequest in
 “the manner you wish? since there is no
 “other word I can use, which will give her
 “and her heirs a *legal* title to hold it.”

“Yes! yes!”---cried Mr. Ormond, pet-
 tishly, ---“say I *lend* it to her and her heirs,
 “that will do quite as well.”

“As you please,”---said the lawyer,---
 “only give me leave to remind you, that
 “what we *lend*, we expect to have repaid on
 “a fix’d day, therefore, if I write it so, you
 “must limit the *time* you lend it for.”

“You are right there, my friend,”---said
 Mr. Ormond

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Mr. Ormond,---“so put it down, I *lend* it
“to her and her heirs ’till the great day
“of resurrection---and *that* I think is long
“enough!”

This ended the dispute; the will was
drawn up, and properly executed; the tes-
tator expired in a few weeks after, and it
may be justly observed, that he died much
in debt to himself.





CHAPTER II.

"Poor is the friendless master of a world."

DR. YOUNG.

MR. Henry Ormond on a final adjustment of his late father's affairs, found himself immensely rich, having near a hundred thousand pounds in the funds, exclusive of his estate in Somersetshire. He now deeply regretted his confined education as a circumstance, that must for ever exclude him from the higher circles.--- Without friends, without acquaintance, without any relations to whom he was known, he felt as if alone in the world, and was some time before he could determine, what plan of life to pursue. He at length visited Ormond Lodge, for the first time in his life.--- (It had been two months uninhabited, save by
two

two domestics, an old man and woman, whom his father had placed there in care of the property on the premises). The situation was beautiful beyond imagination;--- the grounds, the house, the furniture, tho' not entirely in the modern taste, were extremely elegant.---The whole appearance struck its youthful possessor with pleasing wonder, and he exclaimed aloud---

"What a contrast to the dungeon I have left in London!"

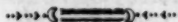
"Then I hope"---said the old woman who happened to be by, when he spoke---
 "that your honor be come to live here---*zure*
 "it be a fine place; there be nothing wanting
 "about it but more company, and servants,
 "to cause a little life and spirit, that we
 "might live like *mortal christians*."

"Why, I don't know but I may live
 "here"---replied Mr. Ormond, and paused:
 ---then resumed;---"but pray, Mrs. Grat-
 "ton, is there any company about here? for
 "I want friends and acquaintance."

"Yez *zure*! your honor"---answered she
 ---"there be a power of gentry round this
 "part; you may have a plenty of company;
 "---when your honor be come to stay, all
 "the

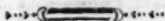
“the gentry will visit you;---they’ll not wait
“to be sent for.”

Her account delighted Mr. Ormond, it opened the most pleasing prospects to his view, his heart panted for the enjoyment of society and friendship, and he resolved to embrace the opportunity, that seemed to offer for obtaining it, by fixing his residence at the lodge.---Nature had formed his mind for domestic felicity;---trade and commerce afforded him no amusement;---and reason now convinced him, that he had no farther occasion for it;---he therefore determined to go directly back to town, arrange all his affairs there, and return to settle himself for life at Ormond Lodge. In pursuance of this determination he set out the next morning. On his arrival in London he relinquished the business to his father’s head-clerk, Mr. Hanmore, who had been many years in the counting-house, was a very worthy man, and had a young family, which he had hitherto found great difficulty in supporting on his narrow stipend; and the fear of being thrown out of employ had prevented his attempting to better himself in the late Mr. Ormond’s time. Such a change as this
was



was therefore not only surprizing, as being quite unexpected, but at the same time was as gratifying as advantageous to him. A capital to support the trade upon was necessary, and *that* Mr. Ormond (as *liberal* as his father had been *mean*) generously supplied him with, ---refusing to take any interest for the sum.

A fortnight sufficed to settle all the concerns of Mr. Ormond in town.---Mrs. Hanmore, at his request, engaged the female servants necessary to establish his household properly, and sent them away to take possession of their respective places. A new, elegant travelling chariot was soon ready, in which Mr. Ormond, with Mr. and Mrs. Hanmore, (whom he had engaged to spend the first month with him) commenced their journey to the lodge;---they were all in excellent spirits, ---the spring was in the height of its bloom, ---the melody of the feathered warblers, and the beauty of the variegated prospects, rendered the journey delightful. -----Happy in themselves, and in the society of each other, they met with nothing throughout the whole of it to disgust, or to displease them, ---and in the same happy disposition they reached Ormond Lodge, where



where the village bells saluted their ears with a welcome. The refreshment of coffee and tea afforded them a sufficient recruit of strength and spirits, to go over the house and grounds. After which they assembled round a table covered with plenty and elegance, where each made a hearty supper, drank a convivial glass, and at an early hour retired to rest. On the following morning, Mr. Ormond was visited by most of the neighbouring gentlemen, who congratulated him on his accession to his paternal inheritance, requested the honor of his acquaintance, and invited him and his friends to their houses. In their company Mr. Ormond again felt his want of education,---a sigh of regret escaped him, and the idea, that he made a very awkward appearance, contributed not a little to embarrass him for a time;---but his good sense, assisted by the polite attention of the company, enabled him to surmount the painful consciousness, and converse with ease. It was then that he appeared to advantage by the display of his mental abilities, and a flow of natural eloquence extremely captivating to the hearers.---His diffidence (the offspring of strong sensibility

lity) was troublesome only to himself.--- Men of sense saw in it a superior degree of delicacy, and respected the appearance.----- In a few days, Mr. Ormond, accompanied by Mr. Hanmore, returned the friendly visits.---They were politely received, and an invitation from the former to spend a day at the lodge was readily accepted by the different families.---A splendid entertainment was provided on the occasion.---The tenants with their families were invited, a large room was thrown open for their reception, and an excellent dinner provided for them, with plenty of good liquor, to which they did ample honor by repeated draughts to the health, happiness, and long life of their landlord.---Mirth and festivity abounded through the house, and Mr. Ormond had the pleasure to see every appearance of satisfaction prevail among his guests.-----Amongst those who surrounded the table at which he presided, was one family that particularly attracted his notice; and as some part of that family will make a conspicuous figure in these memoirs, I shall beg leave to introduce them to the acquaintance of my readers in the beginning of the next chapter.

CHAP.

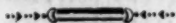


CHAPTER III.

"The heart that bleeds for others woes,
"Shall feel each selfish sorrow less;
"His breast, who happiness bestows,
"Reflected happiness shall bless."

ARMINE and ELVIRA.

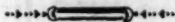
MR. Westby possessed in Somersetshire an estate of fifteen hundred a year; he had good sense cultivated by science, an agreeable disposition, and sufficient knowledge of the world, to render him an entertaining companion, while his good qualities obtained for him universal esteem.---His first wife had been dead several years, by her he had nine children, (only three of whom survived infancy, his eldest son Mr. George Westby, then near twenty-two years of age, Miss Westby, just turned of twenty, and Richard, between twelve and thirteen, then at school).---Within two years after her decease, Mr. Westby married a very young



young woman, of small fortune;---her education had been that of a modern fine lady;---attached to every fashionable gaiety, her extravagance was sufficient to ruin him without the aid of a chancery-suit. Unhappily, however, he was involved in one of the utmost consequence; his whole estate being the subject of litigation:---His father and grandfather, though they had no clear title to it, had both held it for some years with very little interruption; but it had been only a short time in Mr. Westby's possession, before the heir at law set up his claim, and instituted a suit to recover his right. The lawyers finding it a profitable business, flattered Mr. Westby with vain hopes, while they went on, as usual, protracting it as much as possible for their own advantage.---Things were in this state with Mr. Westby, when his acquaintance with Mr. Ormond commenced. His eldest son, Mr. George Westby, was the only one of his children then with him; Miss Westby had never lived much at home since the death of her mother, but had resided chiefly with Lady Harriet Exley, who had been strongly attached to her for many years. It happened a little before this period, that the honorable
Mr.

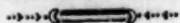
Mr. Exley was appointed to a military command in the East-Indies, his lady was to accompany him, and both earnestly entreated Miss Westby to go with them.--- The idea of a separation was not more supportable to one lady, than it was to the other; Margaretta acknowledged with tears, that she knew not how to bear the thought of parting from them, and exchanging the substantial pleasure of Lady Harriet's society, for the insipid converse and tiresome frivolities of her mother-in-law.--- This acknowledgment gave Mr. Exley and Lady Harriet infinite satisfaction; immediate application was made to Mr. Westby for his consent, who wisely foreseeing, perhaps, that under their protection she might probably obtain a happy and advantageous establishment; or on the other hand, that her return home might occasion some domestic uneasiness, readily gave his concurrence.--- She and her noble friends, after paying a farewell visit of a week, at Mr. Westby's, set out for Falmouth, where they embarked. Mr. George Westby had attended them to the place of embarkation, staid with them 'till they set sail, and had returned home only a day previous to that of the entertainment

ment at Ormond lodge. Mr. Ormond had never seen him 'till then, when he appeared to him highly interesting;---his countenance had not entirely lost that impression of sorrow, which the painful farewell he had just taken of his beloved sister had made upon it. Mr. Ormond's penetrating eye presently perceived there was some secret unhappiness, and his benevolent mind wished to lessen the weight by participation. In the course of the day, his mind was frequently detached from surrounding objects, and drawn into itself, studying to develope the cause of that uneasiness which *he* thought so visible in the countenance of George Westby, but which passed unnoticed by any other person.---
“What”---said Mr. Ormond, *mentally*---
“can make him unhappy? he has undoubtedly had a fine education, is politely accomplished, has such an elegant, easy, and unembarrassed air, as convinces me he is qualified for the highest company: he cannot then (as I do) feel pain at the idea of his own insignificance, neither can he (like me) be in want of a friend with whom to share his pleasures and his pains.
“---No! this cannot, I think, be the cause,
“since

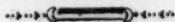


“ since he has attractions enough about him
“ to enable him to chuse where he pleased.
“ Yet what other trouble can possibly have
“ sufficient power to disturb the quiet of a
“ mind like his?”--- It was natural enough
for Mr. Ormond to reason thus, the only
troubles he himself experienced springing
from this source.--- He had no sister.--- He
had never felt the force of fraternal affection,
nor knew the pain of *parting* from a
friend beloved.

His particular observation did not escape
the notice of George Westby; each, as it
were, attracted the other to itself, and before
the hour of separation came, a mutual
friendly attachment had taken place in their
minds, which time and a more intimate
knowledge of each other, strengthened and
established on so solid a basis, that it was
lasting as their lives. They that evening
made an appointment to ride out together
the next morning; Mrs. Hanmore having
letters to write, declined being of the party,
but Mr. Hanmore joined them, and was by
no means disappointed of the pleasure, he
promised himself in the excursion. After
an agreeable ride of two hours, they returned
to the lodge. Mr, George Westby was
easily



easily prevailed upon to give them his company at dinner, nor was he in any hurry to depart, 'till the dusk of the evening reminded him, he had seven miles to ride home. After this, seldom a day passed without their meeting, and when Mr. and Mrs. Hanmore were gone back to town, Mr. Ormond frequently found means to detain his friend for days together at the lodge, by pleading the disagreeableness of solitude. Travelling was a pleasure Mr. Ormond had never enjoyed 'till since the death of his father: it was delightful to him, as every day so spent afforded some new subject for his observation. George Westby was equally fond of it, and in the course of the summer they took several journeys together. Mr. Ormond had one foible, which his friend Westby took infinite pains to eradicate, but it was constitutional and proved incurable: This was a strong attachment to female *beauty*. --- Every handsome face attracted him, and he was perpetually over head and ears in love. --- Other qualifications in a woman, however good and amiable, unattached to personal beauty, were by him totally disregarded. These love-fits, however, seldom lasted long, as the object exciting them had in general
little



little else to boast than beauty, and that soon loses its power to charm alone, but they sometimes would last long enough to put Westby in fear of his rashly throwing away his own future happiness, and the more so as he frequently declared he would not be long single. ----- Many ladies of rank, fortune, and accomplishments, were recommended to his notice, but he declined every thing of that sort by saying, he had no ambition for rank; --- it could make no additional happiness, and fortune he would never make an object. In forming a matrimonial alliance, he should aspire to nothing beyond domestic felicity. It must be allowed, however, by those who knew him, that the methods by which he sought to attain it, were romantic enough. Westby rallied him frequently upon it, but he soon ceased all concern or uneasiness about him, when convinced from attentive observation, that one fair face reigned no longer, than till another appeared.

Their friendship had continued with increasing fervor on both sides for the space of one year, when Mr. Westby was called to London upon his law business. The lawyers having protracted the affair as long

as protraction was possible, were obliged now to submit to let it be brought to trial before the Chancellor, and it was necessary for Mr. Westby to be present. As the old gentleman's health had been for some time upon the decline, the son did not think it proper for him to go alone; he therefore attended him with a heavy heart, as dreading the consequence to his father, should the matter be decided against him: and that it *would*, George Westby entertained very little doubt.

On the day of their departure for London, Mr. Ormond set out for Bath; where his friend promised to join him as soon as possible after the trial. A week had elapsed, and Mr. Ormond was in full expectation of seeing him, when the following letter came to him by the post: ---

“ Dear Ormond,

“ Did I suppose your regard to be of that sort, which vanishes at the approach of distress, I should not now write to you; but I know you too well to imagine I shall meet with any thing from *you* but sympathy and kindness. The trial has terminated as I expected it would; and the con-

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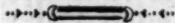
"sequence is nothing less than total ruin to
 "our family.---Added to this, the extrava-
 "gance of Mrs. Westby has occasioned my
 "poor father to contract some very heavy
 "debts; of which circumstance I was held
 "in ignorance 'till now. For one of these
 "debts he was arrested a few days ago,
 "taken to a lock-up house, and the next
 "day conveyed to the King's-bench prison:
 "where he is at present. Detainers, to a
 "very large amount, are lodged against
 "him, so that I greatly fear he will never
 "quit his prison with life. I am constantly
 "with him from morning 'till night, and
 "omit nothing in my power to alleviate his
 "sorrow. He appears outwardly calm and
 "composed, but I can plainly perceive that
 "he is a prey to inward grief. I can add
 "no more, than, that I am,

Your's, faithfully,

"GEORGE WESTBY."

As soon as Mr. Ormond had perused his
 friend's letter, he set out for London, drove
 directly to the King's-bench, and had the
 mortification to find, notwithstanding the
 expedition he had used, he was just one
 hour too late to obtain admission within the
 walls.

walls.---By the powerful assistance of a golden bribe, he did, however, prevail with one of the door-keepers to deliver a note to Mr. George Westby, informing him, that he was in town, and promising to be with him there in the morning, the moment the doors were opened. Mr. Ormond, having previously learned from the man that Mr. Westby was to all appearance dying, and his son would not be persuaded to leave him neither that night nor the two preceding ones. Mr. Ormond now felt the full weight of disappointment.---His intention, when he left Bath, was to settle all Mr. Westby's debts by a composition, pay the money himself, and thereby obtain the old gentleman's speedy enlargement. This pleasing idea had occupied his mind through the whole of the journey; and now to find his purpose likely to be frustrated by so melancholy an event as the death of Mr. Westby, gave sensations of pain which none but minds benevolent as his own, are capable of forming any idea of. Punctual to his appointment, he went to the King's-bench in the morning, and with the utmost impatience waited a few minutes for the doors opening, in which short space he had flattered himself into a belief, that Mr.



Westby was now much better, --- every dangerous symptom vanished, --- that he would certainly recover, --- and then *be* should have the happiness of procuring his liberty. --- Flushed with these pleasing visions, judge reader, if you can, what must be the shock he felt, when, on entering the lobby, he was accosted by the man he had talked with the night before, and informed, that Mr. Westby had expired two hours ago. --- He started, trembled, and was obliged to sit down : the stroke affected him too powerfully for speech : and he was some time before he could recover himself. At length he inquired for his friend George Westby, and learned that he was still in the same apartment with the corpse --- whither he desired to be conducted to him. Here Mr. Ormond's feelings received an additional shock at the sight of his friend's altered looks; whom mental distress and weariness, with loss of sleep and appetite, had reduced almost to a shadow. --- A momentary gleam of pleasure diffused itself over his countenance at sight of Mr. Ormond : --- He attempted to speak, but his heart was too full to allow him utterance, and he turned away to hide those feelings which did him the
highest

highest honor. Mr. Ormond, little less affected than himself, went towards him, took his hand, -----

“Dear George” --- said he --- “why deny me the privilege of friendship? --- the satisfaction of *sharing* those sorrows beyond my abilities to *remove*?” --- Westby’s tears flowed in torrents, and in a short time he was able to articulate. -----

“Oh! Ormond,” cried he, “view these dear remains that lay stretched on this miserable bed, and then -----.” He could add no more.

“My dear George” --- resumed his feeling friend --- “the contemplation of such a scene as this, is shocking to humanity! --- what, then, must it be to *you*, who are so deeply interested! --- Suffer me to draw you from it? --- You have performed your part, George; --- your appearance sufficiently testifies you have fulfilled your duty; --- you have now nothing farther to do in this place, and you must not, --- indeed you *shall not stop any longer.*”

Poor Westby too weak, both in strength and spirits, to make resistance, either by argument or action, faintly replied,

“Do with me, dear Ormond, what you
C 3 “will;

“ will;--- I resign myself to your disposal;---
“ convey me where you please.”

There needed no more. Mr. Ormond drew aside the poor woman who had officiated as nurse, put some gold into her hand, directed every thing which was necessary and proper to be done, and he would send an undertaker to do the rest.---He then drew Westby's arm through his, and led him tenderly and cautiously down stairs. The hack which had brought Mr. Ormond, being in waiting at the lobby-gate, he put him into it, and having seated himself beside him, directed the man to drive to Clapham, and stop at the first handsome house that had lodgings to let.---They were soon there, and presently accommodated with very genteel apartments. Where, by the direction of Mr. Ormond, a bed was immediately prepared for Mr. Westby; who was conducted to it: and, neither of them having breakfasted, tea was ordered into the chamber; after which Mr. Ormond left his friend to take repose, while he went to give directions about the funeral, and to call upon Mr. Hanmore, who, with his family, rejoiced to see him, and was much disappointed that he could
not

not detain him to dinner. He stayed only a few minutes, and then returned to Clapham, where he had the satisfaction to find his friend still asleep.---He sat down softly by the side of the bed, but had not sat more than a quarter of an hour, when Westby awoke greatly refreshed, and much better in health.---He held out his hand;---Ormond took it in both his;---

“Dear Ormond”---cried he---“how good you are!---this is friendly indeed!---but “I fear I give you a great deal of trouble.”-----

“No! no!”---returned Mr. Ormond,---“none at all;---but you *will* give me a “great deal, if you say a word about it;---“so pray drop the subject:---Are you not “my friend?---

“I am sure”---said Westby---“you are “*mine* Ormond, and that reflection tranquillizes my mind now under the heaviest weight of calamity I ever experienced.”

“But George”---said Ormond, willing to give the conversation a turn---“do be “so good as rise and dress, I think the “dinner must be nearly ready; I am very “hungry, and your looks shew that you “need

“need food, and a great deal of it too,
“to recover the flesh you have lost.---
“Why you are almost as meagre as Shake-
“speare’s starved apothecary.”

Westby could not forbear a smile, though it was but a faint one; his countenance quickly resumed its former dejection. He arose, dressed, and sat down to dinner with his friend, whose presence and persuasions induced him to make a much better meal than he had made for many days before.





CHAPTER IV.

—————“ Love refines
“ The thoughts, and heart enlarges; hath his seat
“ In reason, and is judicious; is the scale
“ By which to heav’nly love we may ascend.”

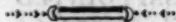
MILTON.

A Fortnight had elapsed after the last duties were paid to the remains of Mr. Westby, when Mr. Ormond proposed to his friend to go back with him to Ormond lodge; but this he begged to decline on account of its vicinity to Park-Hill farm. Ormond entered into his feelings on that subject, and pressed him no farther upon it. A short silence ensued, during which some painful reflections arose in the mind of Westby: he sighed deeply, then said,

“ Ormond, I am sensible of your friendship;--- I feel all your kindness, and shall
“ ever, while I have existence, acknowledge

“ myself under the highest obligation to
“ you.--- But, --- forgive me Henry ; --- I can-
“ not bear a life of dependance even upon
“ you.--- It already grows distressing to me.
“ I ardently wish to plan some method of
“ subsisting by my own efforts.--- Do then
“ have the goodness to think for me; my
“ mind is so distracted by variety of wretch-
“ edness that I am scarce capable of thinking
“ for myself.”

“ I honor you, George, for your noble
“ spirit”---said Mr. Ormond---“ but this
“ is no more than I expected.--- I have,
“ from the first knowledge of your mis-
“ fortunes, seen and dreaded an interrup-
“ tion of our social intercourse: in which
“ has consisted my principal happiness for
“ the last two years.--- I knew you too well
“ to flatter myself with a hope that you
“ would act otherwise.--- The loss of your
“ company I shall very severely feel, be-
“ cause that will be irreparable.--- Your
“ happiness is, however, more dear to me
“ than selfish gratification; and I am there-
“ fore ready to assist you in any way you
“ can propose. But first let me request that
“ you will, for your own health’s sake; drop
“ these thoughts awhile, and go with me
“ for



“for a few weeks to Brighton, or Margate, or any where else that you may like better?”

“If you take me any where for health, Ormond”---returned he---“let not the kind intention prove ineffectual, from my carrying along with me inward uneasiness and anxiety. Only let something be previously set on foot to promote my future establishment, and my mind will then be at ease.”

“Granted George”---said Mr. Ormond---“it only remains for you to say what line of life you are qualified to pursue with comfort to yourself.”

“Aye! there lies the difficulty, my friend!”---replied Westby---“I really do not know what I am fit for.---A *reduced gentleman* appears to me in the light of an useless member of society; there being very few purposes in life for which such an one is calculated: education and habit being both against him.---I, however, have youth and activity in my favor, and therefore rather than descend to be a dependant, I would learn some working trade, and be a plodding mechanic: happy

“ in my own self-consequence, and proud
 “ of my freedom. Thus-----

“ A *mechanic* George with *your* educa-
 “ tion!---interrupted Mr. Ormond with
 warmth---“ *that* you shall never be while
 “ I have the power to prevent it.---Do for
 “ heaven’s sake turn your thoughts to some-
 “ thing more eligible.”

“ Be not so hasty”---cried Mr. Westby
 ---“ you misunderstood me, Henry:---I
 “ was only speaking comparatively, and
 “ without any intention of embracing that
 “ way of life.---The thing that I should
 “ prefer, would be some small place under
 “ government; but *I* have no interest to
 “ obtain it, nor *you* neither I fear: unless
 “ through Mr. Hanmore, he perhaps may
 “ find out some way to get it done.”

“ A bright thought,”---exclaimed Or-
 mond---“ I’ll go to him to-morrow morning
 “ about it, and, while he is getting the bu-
 “ siness forward, you and I will make an
 “ excursion to some of the watering pla-
 “ ces.”

Westby having now disburthened his
 mind of the weight that had oppressed
 it, without meeting that opposition he feared
 from

from the friendship of Ormond, became rather more cheerful: and rendered his conversation so extremely pleasing, that the latter doubly regretted the loss he must shortly sustain; and would with pleasure have relinquished one half of his fortune, to have secured to himself the constant and uninterrupted society of his friend thro' the rest of his life: could he at the same time have secured the happiness and honor of that friend in accepting it. But he knew the noble principles of Westby too well to indulge the idea; and he had too much delicacy to hurt him by making the proposal.

On the following morning Mr. Ormond rose early, and went to breakfast with Mr. Hanmore; where it is unnecessary to say, he met with a welcome reception.--- When all were seated round the table,

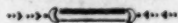
“Hanmore”---said Mr. Ormond---“this
“is a visit of business, not of ceremony; I
“am come to solicit a favor of you,---are
“you inclined to grant me one?”

“What a question, my dear Sir!”---re-
“plied Hanmore---“have you not acquired
“a *right* to demand my best services in any
“way you think proper?”

“I dis-

“ I disclaim all right ” --- said Mr. Ormond
 --- “ but that which your friendship gives
 “ me: and privileged by that; I request your
 “ exertions in favor of my valuable friend
 “ Westby: whose recent misfortunes you
 “ are not unacquainted with, and whose
 “ wish it is to obtain some place under go-
 “ vernment. He has no interest amongst
 “ any that might be at all likely to serve
 “ him in that way, nor have I; but, perhaps,
 “ you may have some connections, who will
 “ do it, through your application. --- In these
 “ cases, I know a few hundreds are expected,
 “ as a gratuity. --- George is ignorant of this
 “ circumstance, and shall remain so. --- I’ll
 “ advance the money, whatever it is; if you
 “ can make interest to get him a snug
 “ place.”

“ I have been thinking about it, Sir ” ---
 answered Hanmore --- “ and I declare I
 “ know only one channel through which I
 “ can obtain any thing of the kind. --- Mr.
 “ D-----, the navy agent, is an intimate
 “ acquaintance of mine, and *be*, I have no
 “ doubt, could easily procure a place in one
 “ of his Majesty’s dock-yards: They are
 “ generally reckoned very good things: ---
 “ though, at the first entrance, the salary
 “ and

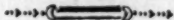


“and emoluments are trivial: but a man
 “has the advantage of a certainty of pre-
 “ferment, if he possesses merit in his of-
 “fice. If, indeed, he has powerful interest,
 “in addition to merit, his preferment is
 “more rapid. Do you think Mr. Westby
 “would like something of this sort?”

“I am sure he would”---cried Ormond
 ---“and if money can make interest to
 “obtain his speedy advancement, he shall
 “not be without it ’till he has reached the
 “summit.”

“Then I’ll see Mr. D----- upon the bu-
 “siness to-day”---resumed Hanmore- -“if
 “he undertakes it, as I have no doubt he
 “will, I dare say there will be no occasion
 “to tax your generosity for a gratuity to
 “him,---he will do it out of friendship to
 “me.”

“I comprehend you perfectly, Hanmore”
 ---said Mr. Ormond---“but I am not to be
 “taken in so easily; I know very well those
 “gentlemen make a kind of traffic of their
 “interest in that way:---and in trade friend-
 “ship is entirely out of the question. I re-
 “member my father had many of those
 “matters to transact, and used to divide the
 “gratuity between him and the person who
 “managed



“ managed the business. --- *You* will do no
 “ such thing ; *your* intention was to pay
 “ Mr. D----- the money he demanded, and
 “ then hug yourself with the idea, of per-
 “ suading me into a belief, that the place
 “ had cost nothing : but it won’t do, indeed,
 “ my friend.”

Hanmore looked a little disappointed at the discovery of his design, but presently said, with a smile :

“ Well, Sir, if you are determined to pay
 “ a good round sum unnecessarily, I will
 “ not affront you by any attempt to prevent
 “ it.” --- After some farther conversation, on indifferent matters, Mr. Ormond returned to cheer the heart of his friend, by the information, that things were *en traine*, for the accomplishment of his wishes. --- Mr. Westby was greatly satisfied and obliged by the intelligence ; but his spirits were not entirely restored. He had other subjects of uneasiness which still preyed upon his mind. One was, how to dispose of his brother Richard, whose continuance at school was an expence that it would be impossible for him to support : and he was too delicate to touch upon the subject to his generous friend. --- Ormond, however, was not unmindful of it ;
 therefore,

therefore, finding Westby would not mention him, he said once, in a casual way,

“George, I think you and I are grown negligent and inattentive to all but each other; for we both seem to have forgot your brother Richard. We have not---”

“Oh! no!”---interrupted Westby---“so far from forgetting him, Henry, I believe I *think* too much about him, poor fellow! I know not what situation to place him in; but I must speedily determine, for he must not continue where he is.”

“Have you, George, a *real* friendship for me?”---cried Ormond, eagerly---“or is it merely a professional one?”

“To doubt it, Henry”---replied he---“were doing an injustice to yourself, as well as me;---but why make it a question?”

“If you are *really* my friend, you will not think yourself degraded”---replied Ormond---“by a compliance with my wishes in this one instance:---Commit your brother to my care, and have no farther concern about him.---I love him, not merely for *your* sake, but for his own.---He is a fine fellow! and I am much mistaken, if he does not make a most excellent man:

“worth



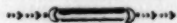
"worth half a dozen such beings as either
 "you or me.---He has at present an ardent
 "thirst after knowledge, is making a rapid
 "progress in science, and I think it would
 "be a very great pity to take him from his
 "studies yet.---*I*, George, know, by pain-
 "ful experience, the misery that attends a
 "consciousness of the want of a proper
 "education:---*you* know nothing of that,
 "therefore are not so sensible of its value
 "as I am.---If you persist in your inten-
 "tion of taking your brother away before
 "his education is completed, you will ab-
 "solutely give me more concern than I
 "can express."

"Not one moment's disquiet, Ormond,
 "that I can prevent"---returned Westby---
 "shall you ever feel.---From henceforth
 "then, I commit my brother to your pro-
 "tection, and with pleasure shall I *acknow-*
 "*ledge* an obligation to *you*, which I would
 "not submit to *receive* from any other
 "man."

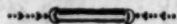
Mr. Ormond was highly gratified by this
 mark of confidence: while Westby, entirely
 relieved from anxiety about his brother and
 himself, had leisure to occupy his thoughts

on

on a subject more distressing to him than either of those. He had for some months past paid his addresses to Miss Catherine Sedgewick, a young lady of amiable mind and elegant accomplishments. To her he was most strongly attached; nor was she less so to him. Her father had promoted the union, and, with the consent of all concerned, a day was fixed for their marriage. Every preparation was in great forwardness, when the law deprived Mr. Westby, senior, of his estate, and his son of the right of inheritance: which was all that had rendered him desirable to Mr. Sedgewick as a son-in-law; for he had not discernment enough to discover merit, unaccompanied by the favors of fortune. He, therefore, wrote to Westby, and withdrew his consent to the match, in very haughty terms. As the portion he was to have given Miss Sedgewick, was a mere nothing, in comparison to Westby's former expectations, the latter justly thought himself extremely ill-treated, and would have resented it warmly, had not the violence of his affection for his adored Kate, restrained his resentment. He made no reply to Mr. Sedgewick's letter, but
addressed



addressed one to Miss Sedgewick, wherein he declared it impossible for him ever to be happy without her; he very candidly laid open to her the only prospect he then had for future support, and concluded, with leaving his fate in her hands.---A few days brought him an answer favorable to his wishes. She strongly expressed her fixed resolution to abide by the engagement she had entered into with him; and that as his loss of fortune was her father's only reason for withdrawing a consent he had once given, she should not think it any breach of duty to marry him without. "That she was ready to prove the sincerity of her affection, by privately giving him her hand, whenever he thought himself justified by prudence in demanding it." She added, "that she depended upon his good sense, not suffering passion to hurry him into an act that might plunge him hereafter into difficulties; but be his circumstances what they might, he should find her capable of accommodating herself to them."---This letter restored his mind to ease and serenity, and Mr. Ormond and he went their proposed journey, though not without



without travelling many miles about, in order to visit Miss Sedgewick, who had, at Mr. Westby's request, promised to meet him at the house of a friend, at some distance from her own habitation.





CHAPTER V.

“ ——— Still he must talk of Nevia, or be mute:
“ He writ to his *father*, ending with this line,
“ I am, my lovely *Nevia*, ever thine.”

SPECTATOR.

THEY had been near three weeks at Brighton, when they were recalled by a letter from Mr. Hanmore, giving the pleasing intelligence of his success, in having obtained a place in Plymouth dock-yard for Mr. Westby, whose immediate “ appearance before the Board of Admiralty was necessary.” The two friends set out for town directly; and, in four days after, Westby was in possession of his office at Plymouth, where he devoted himself entirely to the duties of it, and felt comfortable, under the hope of speedy promotion. In the mean time, Mr. Hanmore, by the direction of Mr. Ormond, was keeping a
look-out

look-out for a vacancy in some superior post, and was not long without hearing of one; which, through the interest of his former friend, Mr. D-----, he got Westby appointed to fill: and without any previous notice, dispatched the warrant for it, by a special messenger, who arrived at his house just as he was sitting down to dinner with his friend Ormond, who had been spending a few days with him. It is almost impossible to give a just description of the surprise and pleasure which this event gave. Westby opened the packet, surveyed the contents twice, before he could firmly credit the evidence of his own eyes; when he did, his astonishment and transport took from him the power of utterance for some minutes; at length he exclaimed,

“Gracious heaven be praised for this!”---
he paused: then added,---“Oh! my dear
“Ormond! no words can sufficiently ex-
“press my thanks to you, for this instance
“of your regard! though Mr. Hanmore
“merits my grateful acknowledgements,
“for his diligence in the business, yet to
“you, as the mover of it, I stand princi-
“pally indebted. This promotion raises
“me to a situation equal to my most san-
“guine

“guine wishes: it enables me to become
 “completely happy, by marrying my be-
 “loved Kate, without any dread of subject-
 “ing her to those difficulties, which, in her
 “present situation, she is exempt from.
 “In short, it presents to my view, a para-
 “dise of domestic bliss!”

Ormond was so delighted, he would have danced, had he known how; but as he did not, he was forced to be satisfied with rising from his chair, giving two jumps, skipping across the floor, and back again, then hitting Westby a good hearty slap on the shoulder,

“And is it really promotion?---cried he
 ---“and will it do all this for you?---will it
 “make you quite happy, my boy?”

“In very deed it will”---returned he---
 with a smile of heart-felt cheerfulness.

“Then, Hanmore, thou’rt a prince of
 “a fellow!”---resumed Ormond---and I’ll
 “not forget thee, I warrant me.---Thou
 “shalt be the better for this day’s work,
 “as long as thou livest.”

Having said this, he returned quietly to his seat, to finish his dinner: which by the way was now almost cold. But joy had deprived both him and Westby of that keen
 appetite

appetite they first sat down with. The table was presently cleared. Mr. Ormond desired pens, ink, and paper, and began writing to Hanmore, when he was interrupted by Westby saying,

"Henry, you cannot leave me on Thursday, for I have just determined upon being married the beginning of next week, and-----"

"Well! what is that to me?"---returned Ormond---"marry, if you will,---only do not interrupt me while I am writing."

"Well, but Ormond, hear me,---Kate must be *your* gift to me."

"*Keep my patience!*"---an expletive very common with Ormond, when put out of his way---"this promotion has made a fool of you, I believe, George.-- Cannot you let a man alone a few moments, while he is writing upon important matters?---here I had it all ready, and your nonsense has turned it quite out of my thoughts again. ---However"---continued he---"if it is your determination to marry the beginning of next week, it is not now too soon to acquaint Miss Sedgewick with your intention; for, if I am not mistaken, *her* consent to the business is as necessary as
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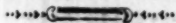
"yours:

“ *yours*:---so do take the pen and write to
“ her;---that will employ *you*, and free *me*
“ from future interruption.”

Ormond then went on with his letter to Hanmore; and, after thanking him for his attention to Westby's affairs, generously *insisted* on his acceptance of the money he had formerly lent him, and immediately settling it upon his children, in equal shares. When they had finished writing, and sent away their letters, they drank coffee, and afterwards walked out together. During their promenade they settled several things respecting the wedding, &c.;---among the rest it was remembered, that Richard Westby's first vacation took place on the Friday following. Mr. Ormond expected him at Ormond lodge, and therefore insisted on going thither then to meet him, and returning with him to Plymouth on the Monday following;---after which they were to attend Mr. Westby on his matrimonial expedition.---To this adjustment the latter readily agreed.---The return of the post brought him a letter from Miss Sedgewick, congratulating him on his late acquisition, promising to be at the house of a female friend she had in Exeter, on the Tuesday following

ing, and prepared to give him her hand at the altar on Wednesday morning.--- Her lover had not patience to wait 'till Wednesday for a sight of her, but with his brother and Mr. Ormond set out on the Tuesday, and reached Exon a few minutes after her.--- The meeting, on both sides, was such as might be expected.--- She introduced him and his companions to her friend, who engaged them to stay the evening, promised to attend them to church in the morning, and then go with them to Plymouth for a few weeks.

When the marriage ceremony was over, Mr. Westby and his lady both wrote to Mr. Sedgewick, before they left Exeter, to inform him of the event, and solicit forgiveness.--- But *that* he did not chuse to grant;--- for, as he had a great deal of pride, with very little wealth, he was rather pleased at an opportunity that gave him (as he thought) a *just* pretence for giving his daughter no fortune at all. He therefore wrote an answer, expressive of great displeasure, peremptorily interdicted her attempting to hold future correspondence with him, or any of his family; and con-



cluded with saying, "that her disobedience sufficiently justified him in taking such measures as should preclude her ever inheriting any part of his property."--- As Mr. and Mrs. Westby had both been thoroughly aware of this circumstance, they were neither surprized nor disappointed by the reply; nor did it at all disturb their domestic tranquillity.--- They were happy in each other, and held in the utmost esteem by all who knew them.--- In something less than a year, their happiness was augmented, by the birth of a child: but as happiness is not often complete or permanent in this life, theirs met with a little interruption by the death of their infant, at eight months old, when it had just began to grow engaging. Mr. Westby too had his felicity invaded by the painful uncertainty of his sister's situation.--- There had been only one letter received from her, and that was written directly after her arrival at Bencoolen. He had wrote to her several times, informed her of all the events that had happened in the family, and waited, with anxious expectation, a return to his letters, but none came. --- Mr. Hanmore was employed to make enquiries

quiries, but could gain no intelligence whatever concerning her; and when three years (from the time of Mr. Westby's marriage) had elapsed, and no information had been obtained of Miss Westby, all hope of ever more seeing her vanished.---Suspence was then, in his opinion, reduced to a certainty of her loss.---He ceased farther enquiries, and mourned her as dead. Mrs. Westby used every means in her power to console him; and her efforts, aided by his own good sense and pious principles, had the desired effect.---He became once more cheerful and resigned to the will of Him, who "*does all things well,*" and his heart again dilated with thankfulness for the blessings which he could still call his own.---His brother, cherished by the unceasing kindness and generosity of his faithful friend Ormond, was growing up into life, with the promising appearance of proving an ornament to his family, and an amiable member of society.---The loss of his first child had been compensated by the birth of others, healthy, lovely, and endearing:---his wife rising in his esteem and affection, by the daily discovery of some fresh excellence;



the constant practice of every virtue; and her unwearied attention to his domestic comfort. These were all circumstances to call forth his gratitude to the God of Providence.



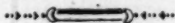


CHAPTER VI.

“With more than vulgar grief he stood oppress’d.”

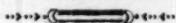
POPE’S HOMER.

MR. Ormond, faithful to the trust he had taken upon him, spared no expence in the education of Richard Westby; and had the satisfaction to observe, that it was not thrown away. The young man’s conduct proved him worthy of all that was done for him. He made rapid improvement; and, on every occasion, testified his gratitude. --- Not by adulation or servility, which would only have met the contempt of his patron, but by a dignified polite attention to please; in which he was so successful, that Mr. Ormond grew strongly attached to him; and at his return to school, so painfully felt the loss of his young companion, that he was



beginning to grow quite dejected, when his attention was engaged by the entrance of some neighbouring gentleman, from whom he learned, that the successful adversary of the late Mr. Westby was gone to settle abroad, and had sold the long-contested estate to Lord Thornby; a nobleman, who had been many years in the naval service, and who had very lately come to the title quite unexpectedly; there being no less than three lives between him, and *that* six weeks preceding the event. His Lordship was then at Park-Hill Place, where it was understood he intended stopping a few weeks. These gentlemen were going then to pay their respects to him; and Mr. Ormond agreed to join them. Lord Thornby was not the complete man of fashion, elegantly accomplished, and full of unmeaning politeness, but the true British tar. He had good sense, good-nature, plainness of manners, with sincerity, honor and bravery. He received his visitors with great cordiality, and expressed in strong terms his sense of the favor they did him.---Adding, “that
“tho’ the preliminaries of peace were nearly settled, and his ship likely to be *laid*
“*up*,

“*up*, yet he was resolved to *impress* them
 “all for that day, that she might be
 “sufficiently *manned* for a convivial en-
 “*gagement*, and able to give a *broadside*
 “to the *enemies* of mirth and good cheer.”
 This was his lordship’s manner of in-
 viting them to stay dinner; an invitation
 they readily accepted; and were enter-
 tained with true English hospitality.---
 After dinner the glass circulated pretty
 briskly;---the first bumper “to his Ma-
 jesty”;---the next “to the Queen”;---
 then, “to the Royal Children”;---then,
 “success to the Royal British Navy”;---
 (each with three times three);---then,
 “confusion to the enemies of Great Bri-
 tain;---and in short, no toast truly
 loyal was forgotten by the noble com-
 mander, whose head was much better
 calculated to stand them, than that of
 any of his guests, who were all in a
 short space elevated much beyond their
 usual pitch, and far too happy to think
 of *desertion*, ’till the evening was far ad-
 vanced. Mr. Ormond, who had through
 his whole life been utterly unaccustomed
 to bacchanalian revels, and had never
 before been intoxicated with liquor, was



much more overcome than any of the rest, and was quite incapable of sitting his horse, or even mounting him. Lord Thornby laughed heartily at the situation he was in, ordered his servant to depart without him, and inform the family "that his master would take a *birth* "with him for that night;" adding, "that "he should be taken good care of when "he *turned in*." Mr. Ormond was presently put to bed, and a servant directed to stay by him through the night; during the greatest part of which sickness prevented his sleeping; and in the morning he felt the painful effects of his intemperance most powerfully. While Lord Thornby, thoroughly seasoned to it, rose as fresh and well as ever, and entering the chamber of his guest, accosted him with "What cheer, messmate? what cheer?" when perceiving he could with difficulty raise his head from the pillow, he bade him "keep his *birth*," then left him, and ordered some strong coffee to be taken to him, which set his head to rights, and enabled him to get about two or three hours sleep; after which he arose tolerably refreshed, and joined his lordship.---He was

was about to depart, when Lord Thornby said,

“Ormond, are you a married man?”

“No, my Lord,”---returned Mr. Ormond,---“I wish I was!”

“Then by Jove”---cried he---“as we are batchelors together, you shall stay with me ’till to-morrow. You looked very well when you came here, and you shall not disgrace either me or yourself, by returning such a pitiful figure as you look at present.---Do not be afraid;”---perceiving Ormond was going to decline it,---“I will not ask you to drink a drop more than you chuse. Drinking will not do for *you* I see; therefore, if you will favor me with your intimacy, you shall in future be always left at liberty to act as you think proper in that respect.---Here’s my hand upon it.”

Mr. Ormond readily received the offered token, and sealed the agreement. The earl and he became afterwards very intimate, and the peace of the nation being entirely settled, the former fixed on Park-hill place as his constant residence; his fortune being too small to

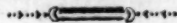
support his rank at court with becoming dignity; and he had detested the mercenary idea of increasing it by marriage. He had however, been but a few months established in his new residence, when his heart, being captivated by the amiable qualities of a young lady, the daughter of a clergyman at E---, his domestic felicity was completed by a speedy union. Mr. Ormond, for near three years, was a frequent witness of his happiness.---In that time, his lordship's bliss was augmented, by the birth of a son, and a daughter.---The delight which the noble pair took in their children, and in each other, was too visible to pass unobserved by Mr. Ormond, who now began to feel something like envy take possession of his mind. His age occurred to his recollection, though it had been unthought of for years. He started at the idea of still being without the prospect of an heir to his estate;--- and as the desire of leaving a representative, is, I believe strongly implanted in every human breast, so it was in that of Mr. Ormond.--- He began to think he had no time to lose; and therefore took more than usual pains to render himself agreeable

able to the ladies. --- He extended his acquaintance amongst them, but in vain; none of them attached his heart. His thoughts were again drawn away from this subject, by the return of his young friend and favorite Richard Westby, who came to spend the vacation with him. Richard had now attained his eighteenth year; his person was altered greatly, and his manners extremely pleasing; but it was with some concern Mr. Ormond observed he was less cheerful than usual: when, judging the cause, and wishing to relieve his mind, he addressed him thus:

“ My dear boy, you are not happy;
 “ and I am at no loss to guess from
 “ whence your unhappiness proceeds; ---
 “ but why use reserves with me, Ri-
 “ chard? --- Why am I now grown un-
 “ worthy your confidence? ---

Richard colored extremely, and began with much hesitation to attempt a reply, but was speedily stopped by Mr. Ormond good-naturedly saying, ---

“ Come, Richard, I'll save you the pain
 “ of *speaking* your wishes; for I think I
 “ am already acquainted with them: ---
 “ Your reason is now matured; --- reflec-
 “ tion



"tion begins to operate powerfully upon
 "your mind, and has taught you to look
 "upon yourself as a being dependant upon
 "the bounty of another;---your pride
 "revolts at the idea;---you are miserable
 "under it, and would wish to change your
 "situation for one more flattering to the
 "independency of your spirit.---Have I
 "not judged right? Is not this the cause
 "of those clouds which have of late hung
 "upon your brow?"

"My dear Sir,"---returned he, recovering from his embarrassment---"will
 "you not charge me with ingratitude
 "if I honestly confess you are right?
 "---I am unhappy under the bare idea
 "of dependance, notwithstanding your
 "kindness is such as---

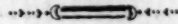
"I acquit you of ingratitude, my young
 "friend,"---interrupted Mr. Ormond---
 "because the trifling advantages you have
 "received from me, have not equalled
 "the pleasure I have derived from your
 "improvements, and the frequent enjoyment
 "of your company. And thus---
 "(to speak in the mercantile language)---
 "the balance is struck;---the account settled
 "and closed;---and you and I are upon

"even



“even terms. --- It now only remains for
 “you to say what line of life you would
 “give the preference to, and you shall
 “enter upon it directly. But do nothing
 “rashly; take sufficient time to consider
 “the subject; and, when you have fixed
 “your determination, tell me of it with
 “the same easy freedom, with which you
 “would converse with your brother.”

Here the conversation ended, for that time, much to the satisfaction of Richard Westby, who was not long in making his election. He had often spent a week or more at a time at the house of Mr. Hanmore, in London, whose stile of life and various occupations captivated him greatly. --- He wished for nothing so ardently as to become a respectable merchant of the city of London. --- He therefore made Mr. Ormond acquainted with his desire of being placed in some compting-house, where he might in a few years attain such a knowledge of business, as to give him a prospect of rising to eminence, by industrious application. --- Mr. Ormond yielded to his wish. --- Mr. Hanmore was applied to, who, in a few weeks, fixed



fixed him in the compting-house of a very capital merchant, where we will leave him for a while, and return to Ormond lodge.





CHAPTER VII.

- " Virtue permit my *fancy* to impost
" Upon my better pow'rs;—
" She casts sweet fallacies on half our woes,
" And gilds the gloomy hours.——
" How could we bear the tedious round
" Of waning moons, and rolling years,
" If, where no sov'reign cure appears,
" No opiates could be found?——

WATTS'S LYRICS.

IT was now the dreary month of November, and every thing appeared gloomy and cheerless in the eye of Mr. Ormond, after the departure of his young companion. He walked out, but the weather soon drove him back to the house, where he wandered from room to room for some time, and at length seated himself in the library, hoping to find some amusement from books.---Vain, however, was the attempt.---An unusual gloom hung upon his spirits, and he determined to dissipate it by visiting his friends at Plymouth. He remained there 'till the beginning of February, when he prevailed on Mr. and Mrs.

Westby

Westby to accompany him to Bath; where they spent a fortnight, and then separated for their respective homes. Mr. Ormond, on his return to the lodge, found it still unpleasant.---He wished for an agreeable companion at his fire-side.---He reflected on the happiness of his friend Westby, surrounded by an amiable wife and four engaging children.---He had always looked upon the marriage state as the happiest; and it had now more charms for him than ever.---He repeatedly wished himself enlisted in the corps of *Benedicts*; but amongst all the ladies of his acquaintance, no one had engaged his affections:---each wanted some qualification which he deemed essentially necessary to promote mutual felicity.---But he was not disheartened by this. "The world"---said he---"is wide: I will extend my connections by travelling:---" "It is not improbable but in some distant county I may be lucky enough to find the lovely creature destined to make my felicity."-----The idea occupied his mind, 'till his servant interrupted his meditations by laying a newspaper before him. An advertisement for the sale of an estate near Newcastle-upon-Tyne, immediately caught

THE DISAPPOINTED HEIR.



caught his eye. --- The description pleased him; --- he determined to view it, and purchase it, if answerable. --- In pursuance of this resolution, he went thither; and, the place meeting his approbation, he became the purchaser. Having finished this affair entirely, he was preparing for his return, when, hearing accidentally that the races at York were to take place in a few weeks, he determined to make that city in his route, and stop there the time: --- not without a hope that amongst the numerous assemblage of ladies, usually drawn together upon such occasions, he might there meet the lovely fair-one, calculated to constitute his future happiness. While his fancy created an image advancing too near perfection in every respect ever to be realized: --- for with every excellence of mind and manners, were united the most striking beauty, grace, and elegance of person. How nearly the object of his choice resembled the image of his creative fancy, the reader will presently be able to judge. Let him not, however, condemn or ridicule the simplicity of Mr. Ormond; but remember, that he is indebted for the principal part of his
 own



own happiness to the little innocent delusions which his fancy forms to veil his judgment, and cheat his understanding.





CHAPTER VIII.

“ Nature—

“ ——— on her bestowed

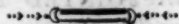
“ Too much of ornament; in outward show

“ Elaborate; of *inward* less exact.”

MILTON.

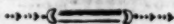
AS there was an intervention of some weeks between the time of Mr. Ormond's departure from Newcastle, and the commencement of York races, he concluded upon going immediately to Scarborough; from whence, after a fortnight's stay, he set forwards for York. The intense heat of the weather inclining him to travel only in the cool of the day; he had reached Malton, and ordered breakfast at the inn, and, while it was preparing, he threw up the sash, and seated himself in the window to enjoy the refreshing breeze of the morning.---In a few minutes a young female figure passing by attracted his notice.---He instantly

instantly snatched up his hat, and was running out to look after her, when she entered the inn yard, and turned into the Book-keepers' office; to the door of which Mr. Ormond followed, and heard her ask "if the coach going through there to York was yet got in?" The man replied "no, nor did they expect it for some hours." She seemed rather vexed at that, and observed, "that it was very disagreeable, as she was alone, and a stranger there, to have so long to wait; --- however," --- added she, --- "I must make the best of it, so I'll e'en take my place now, and pay my fare." "Why where do you want to go to?" --- asked the man, surlily, --- "only to York;" --- she answered --- "Oh, to York!" --- returned the fellow --- "if you had wanted a place for London indeed, perhaps you might have had a chance; but I am sure you cannot go to York in our coach to day; for if there is any room in it when it comes in, I have two or three *coach load* down upon the book to go before you." On hearing this, her countenance expressed the strongest marks of disappointment. "Dear me! what must I do?" --- said she --- "I am obliged to be there to night, if I walk it; and the weather



“ weather is so hot, that I think I can hardly go through a walk of so many miles. I should be very glad” --- added she --- “ if you could tell me of any other conveyance I could go in. --- “ You can have a post-chaise from here if you like it,” --- returned he --- “ but I know of no other conveyance.” Finding it in vain to talk longer, she was turning out of the office, much chagrined, when Mr. Ormond, who had heard all that passed, accosted her, and bowing with an air of respect, blended with his usual good-humor, said to her :

“ I have been attending, Madam, to the discourse between you and the book-keeper, from which I learn that you are obliged to be at York to night; and are disappointed in your expectation of a place in the stage. Fortunately I am going the same road, and must be at York to night too. --- If you will do me the honor to accept a seat in my carriage, I shall be extremely happy in the enjoyment of your company, and shall think this a very fortunate incident.” After some little hesitation, (resulting from her doubts of the propriety of accepting such an offer from an entire stranger) she complied, and at his request,



rêquest, returned with him into the room, where his breakfast was by this time ready. He immediately ordered an addition to be made to it, and politely requested the lady to do the honors of the table for him. While she was occupied in that, Mr. Ormond was taken up with contemplating her face and form; where nature had been lavish of her favors, even to profusion:---for of Harriet Cathrow it might justly be said, in her personal appearance she was loveliness itself: and her dress, which was deep mourning, gave additional lustre to her charms. Had her mind been as amiable as her person was pleasing, she would have had more of the *angelic* than of the *human nature* about her. Unfortunately it was quite the contrary: but she had *art* sufficient to cover its most capital deformities, and accommodate herself to every occasion. Her education had been very limited:---what little she had was obtained during one year's residence at a modern boarding-school, in which she had acquired a great deal of outside polish, without any addition to her mental endowments. Her natural disposition was haughty and tyrannical; though she could occasionally appear adorned with all the softness of
her

her sex, --- meek, mild, and engaging to a great degree. She was selfish and avaricious in the extreme, and utterly destitute of natural affection, even for her nearest relatives. Such was the being of whom the worthy Mr. Ormond became quite enamoured; and, in a few hours, thought his future happiness depended upon *her* alone. Pleased with her outward appearance, he entertained no suspicion of the depravity of her heart, but gave her credit for every virtue: --- and sought, by the most delicate attentions, to render himself equally agreeable to *her*. Desirous of prolonging the present opportunity as much as possible, he ventured, when the breakfast things were removed, to tell her, that "he hoped she " would have no objection to stopping at " Malton, 'till near sun-set, as he always " liked to avoid the intense heat, by travelling only mornings and evenings." She replied, "that if she reached York that " night in decent time, it was all she wished; " therefore, would by no means desire to " put him out of his usual way to accommodate her."

To say the truth, she was no less pleased than Mr. Ormond, at the prospect of passing
 Vol. I. E ing

ing the day with him. --- Not that his person or manners, had made any impression on her heart, for she was incapable of loving any thing but herself; but she had penetration enough to discern that he was struck with her appearance, and her vanity led her to flatter herself with an idea that she might improve her accidental acquaintance with him greatly to her advantage. --- Himself, his equipage, his attendants, in short, all she saw about him, conspired to convince her that he was a man of fortune, and she determined to put in practice, every little art to engage his affection, and thereby secure to herself a genteel and permanent establishment, which she considered would be far preferable to the transient one she had in view. The recent death of her father (who had been a grocer at Wakefield, and failed in business a short time before his decease) having left her without any other means of subsistence, than obtaining it in a state of servitude; she had been the day before to offer her services as lady's maid, in a family a little beyond Malton, where she had been recommended by a lady, who, at the time of Mr. Cathrow's failure, had taken his *youngest* daughter to live

live with her, as a companion;---and at his decease, sent and requested Harriet to come there, and stay with her sister, till some more eligible situation offered. It was to this lady's house, about a mile out of the city, that she was now returning, with intention to stay 'till the time fixed for her going to the place she had engaged herself to.

Harriet Cathrow, though hardly seventeen, was not (as I have before observed) without a great deal of penetration.---Mr. Ormond's countenance was a clear index of his feeling mind;---in *that* she traced the benevolence of his disposition,---and determined to seize the first favorable opportunity to interest his feelings. He gave her one, by saying,

"Excuse my curiosity, Madam, but I cannot help wondering at the cause of your travelling *alone*?---you appear too young to journey without a protector."---She sighed deeply, and replied,

"Alas! Sir, the loss of my father, my only parent! who died about six weeks ago, leaves me to struggle through the world without *protector, friend, or fortune.*"

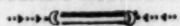
Mr. Ormond became instantly deeply interested for her. He enquired what relations she had? and was informed by her, that she had some few *distant* ones, whose circumstances were now so superior to her own, as to set them above noticing her.--- He mentally execrated the unfeeling wretches! --- He next enquired what were her views? and was answered, --- "she had no other than a genteel and creditable servitude."--- He was shocked at the thought; and without speaking, rose up and left the room.--- His pity for her now co-operating with his admiration, completed her conquest over his heart. In about a quarter of an hour he returned to her, and strove to dissipate that appearance of dejection which her countenance had assumed, by cheerful conversation, and a respectful attention to please. They dined together; after which they conversed with the same easy freedom they would have done had their acquaintance been of long standing. And before they entered the carriage Mr. Ormond made her an offer of his hand and heart, together with a large settlement. She received his offer with an air of modesty; and with such flattering encouragement as perfectly satisfied him.

Finding

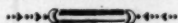
Finding she had some distance to go, after quitting the carriage, he insisted on attending her home; which she declined, by saying, that "she could by no means take the liberty of asking him into the house, she being then with a lady whose *ostentation*, rather than her *tenderness*, had offered her a temporary asylum; who, of course, considered her as a dependant, and treated her in every respect *as such*; and should she even behave with politeness to him, yet afterwards would not fail to express her displeasure very warmly at the freedom taken with her."---This was sufficient to prevent Mr. Ormond pressing the matter farther:---he, therefore, only walked with her to the entrance of a field, which she told him was within an hundred yards of the house, and then left her:---having previously obtained from her a promise to meet him next morning upon the walk by the river side.---He waited the appointed hour with the utmost impatience, but thought himself amply rewarded in the enjoyment of her company, and her permission to expedite matters for their union. A few days sufficed for that purpose:---they were married at York Minster; and thus put an end

to their stolen interviews.---After the ceremony, while the carriage was preparing for their departure, she wrote a short note, and dispatched a porter with it to the lady, whose house she had just left:---when every thing being ready, the bride and bridegroom set out for Ormond Lodge, which by easy stages they managed to reach at the close of the fourth day.---On the following morning Mr. Ormond conducted his lady over the house, when her vanity was highly gratified by the splendor with which she saw herself surrounded:---but she had the address to conceal her feelings, and appear to regard it as little more than what she had formerly been accustomed to; while Mr. Ormond, completely deceived by *that* appearance, secretly exulted in having had the happiness to restore so lovely a creature to that situation she seemed in his partial imagination born to fill.

Visits of the neighbouring families were now received and returned; and for some time the beautiful Mrs. Ormond became the subject of conversation at every tea-table.---The gentlemen were unanimous in their admiration of her;---but the ladies took infinite pains to discover her imperfections;---
nor



nor were they long in finding out many which lay impervious to the partial eye of her happy husband. He thought himself blest beyond the common lot of mortals :--- and the whole conduct of Mrs. Ormond was calculated to confirm him in that opinion :--- for, contrary to the too prevailing custom amongst such very young ladies, when suddenly and unexpectedly exalted to a state of grandeur before unknown to them, they take an improper advantage of a husband's indulgence, give the reins to gaiety, and devote the principal part of their time and fortune to dissipated pleasures.--- That principle of selfish covetousness by which Mrs. Ormond was actuated, withheld her from pursuing such a plan. She had discovered, since her residence at the Lodge, that Mr. Ormond's wealth greatly *exceeded* her expectation ; and she could not help accusing him (in her own mind) of having done her infinite injustice, in settling *no more than thirty thousand pounds* upon her. This error she was determined he should atone for, by an ample reparation ; and to effect it, had recourse to her usual tutelary deity, Cunning, which taught her to accommodate herself to the humour of Mr. Or-



mond, in every point.---*He*, for obvious reasons, frequented none of the public polite amusements;---and she made a sort of merit with him, of refraining from them;---pretending to give the preference to his company and conversation.---Let it not, however, be understood, that she made any sacrifice in this---far from it:---the expence alone would have been sufficient to deter her from attending them.---She was, nevertheless, passionately fond of dress, extremely vain of her person, and happy in every opportunity of exhibiting it to view, when she could do it without cost; but when she could not, she felt no regret in relinquishing the gratification. These things considered, it was to her no difficult task to domesticate and attach herself closely to the society of her husband:---more especially when she had in view the important point of influencing him to make such a will in her favor as should equal her most sanguine wishes. The disparity of their years leading her to suppose she should be a widow in the full bloom of youth and beauty; when a large fortune would attract numerous admirers, and give her the opportunity of choice; in which she
already

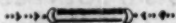
already determined to be *prudent* and *cautious*.

In the mean time Mr. Ormond, who never once entertained a suspicion of her designs, congratulated himself on having obtained such a place in her affections; and his fondness for her increased daily, 'till it gave her an almost entire ascendancy over his mind. --- He was far from wishing to seclude her from the world, believing that she required only to be seen to gain universal admiration, and reflect a lustre on his judgment, in having made so eligible a choice. He therefore often remonstrated against the very retired life which she *appeared* to prefer; and by that means prevented his doors being entirely shut against all his old acquaintance. --- Lord and Lady Thornby being Mr. Ormond's principal favorites in that part, the intimacy with them was still kept up in the same friendly way as before his marriage; and the two families had free access to each other at all times, *sans ceremonie*. The attachment of the two ladies was not indeed the most *friendly*, since there wanted that congeniality of soul, which is the strongest cement of friendship. Lady Thornby had a mind well cultivated, and

E 5 elegantly



elegantly accomplished. Mrs. Ormond's knowledge of things was superficial, and all her ideas occupied with trifles.---Lady Thornby had a degree of liberality and benevolence, which Mrs. Ormond privately censured as extravagance. With dispositions so diametrically opposite, it was utterly impossible that their friendship should extend beyond outward appearance; but that was sufficient to satisfy the latter, with whom appearance was of more consequence in such matters, than reality.---As Lord Thornby's circumstances were too narrow to admit of his making a figure equal to his rank, and he had too much dignity of mind to owe that augmentation of them to court favor, which his merit in the service gave him a right to expect, as his just reward, he chose to live in obscurity, while his country was in a peaceful state: and the satisfaction which his lady always expressed in a life of retirement, made him enjoy it with content and happiness. Mrs. Ormond had, therefore, the less objection to cultivate an intimacy with them, because she knew they were not likely to draw her into additional expences; and she entertained the vulgar idea, that an acquaintance with persons of their rank, reflected



flected a very high degree of honor on herself, in the eye of the world. Added to this, she considered too, that she gratified Mr. Ormond by it: whom from policy, not affection, she was studious to please. For the same reason she *appeared* desirous to conciliate the regards of Mr. and Mrs. Westby, and Mr. and Mrs. Hanmore: while in reality she mortally hated them all.--- The gentlemen for their good sense and penetration, and the ladies for talents so greatly superior to her own; that in company with either of them, she felt herself in a *total eclipse*, which was of course sufficient to create envy in her breast. She had, however, the address to hide her sentiments, and continue the acquaintance for some time, by annual visits.--- To Mr. Richard Westby she colored the mask of friendship very highly, by a pretended interest in his future welfare, never failing, when he visited Mr. Ormond, to weary him with perpetually expressing her apprehensions that such frequent absences from business would eventually prove a very material injury to his own interest.--- He having nothing of this sort to fear, was easy about it. Happy in the society of his benefactor, Mr. Ormond,---

it was long before he understood her meaning. But the continual repetition, obliged him at length to take such expressions as hints that his visits were no longer agreeable; he therefore discontinued them entirely.---Thus artfully did she contrive to expel him from the Lodge.



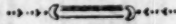


CHAPTER IX.

"Love—the most cordial stream that flows,
"Is a deceitful good."

WATT'S'S LYRICS.

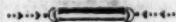
HAPPY as Mr. Ormond thought himself in the matrimonial state, there was yet something wanting to complete his happiness.---But when his lady discovered signs of pregnancy; and in the course of a few months after presented him with a son and heir, his joy was almost without bounds: ---all his tenants partook of it;---they were feasted at the Lodge three days successively; and, when Mrs. Ormond was up again, a grand entertainment was made for the neighbouring gentry; at which time, Mr. Ormond, in compliment to the memory of his beloved mother, had the infant named



named Henry Dawes Ormond. --- The year following gave birth to another son, who was received with no less demonstrations of welcome, than the former. --- Mrs. Ormond now bred so fast, that in the course of seven years more, she saw herself the mother --- (or more properly speaking, the vehicle appointed by Nature for conveying into the world seven children.) --- This mode of expression will hardly be thought too severe, when it is added, she discovered none of that endearing tenderness of affection for her offspring, which so beautifully distinguishes the maternal character.

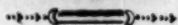
The breaking out of the war in America, had now called Lord Thornby again into action. With a view to amuse the mind of Lady Thornby, during his Lordship's absence, the intercourse between the two families became much more frequent; and Mr. Ormond had, by that means, opportunity to make his own observations on the maternal conduct of her Ladyship; and often, tho' involuntarily, would he make comparisons between that, and the conduct of his own lady: the result of which could not fail to prove greatly to the disadvantage of the latter; whose indifference to her children

dren, was painfully, but silently observed by him; and his fondness for them was increased, partly from a desire to make some compensation for her deficiency; and partly to indulge himself in the reciprocal endearments of parental and filial affection. Innocent and amiable as was this indulgence, he could not enjoy it unmolested. --- His lady began at length to remonstrate with him very warmly on the impropriety of his behaviour: calling it "*paternal love, degenerated into downright weakness; and descending beneath the dignity of a parental character.*" --- The frequent repetition of such remonstrances, obliged him, in some measure, to check the natural effusions of his tenderness, in *her* presence, that he might avoid domestic broils. --- In this he persevered a long time, 'till his second son being taken from him by a malignant fever; and, in a few weeks afterwards, his third son, by the meazles, he was thrown entirely off his guard. --- These repeated strokes overcame his fortitude, and discovered at once the sensibility of his soul; --- while Mrs. Ormond bore the loss (not with christian resignation, but) with stoical firmness; for she was quite unmoved. --- Her apathy,



in this instance, wounded him deeply; but, his partiality for her person inclined him still to shut his eyes upon her mental defects. Another year had rolled round, and Mr. Ormond had, in a great degree, conquered his grief for the loss of his children, when his happiness was again invaded, by a similar event, viz. the death of his youngest child. --- His distress was now almost too deep to admit of consolation; and his grief visibly preyed upon his health. --- Mrs. Ormond could *reprove*, *remonstrate*, and *exhort*; and, sometimes (in the presence of others) affect to *soothe* him; but her real want of tenderness and delicacy, rendered all her efforts to compose his mind utterly ineffectual. --- She had no feelings herself, and therefore was incapable of entering into his.

Lord Thornby, (who was a sharer in the victory obtained by the fleet under the command of the brave and gallant Rodney) returned to his family on the very day that Mr. Ormond's child was interred. In the society of his Lordship and Lady Thornby, the afflicted father sought for consolation; nor did he seek in vain: --- they were indefatigable in their attempts to alleviate his



his sorrows, and restore him to his wonted ease and tranquillity, His valuable friend Westby too, on this melancholy occasion, paid him a visit at the Lodge. --- *He* had drank deep of affliction's bitter cup, and was thereby better calculated to administer consolation's cordial drop. --- His sable dress was but a faint emblem of his mind, which deeply mourned the recent loss of his eldest son, a lieutenant in the navy : who, after signaling himself by his activity and bravery in the action before-mentioned, lost his life by a shot from the enemy, just as victory was about to decide in favor of the British fleet. --- The two friends sympathized with each other, 'till the sorrows of both were lessened by participation; and a degree of humble resignation took place in their minds.



CHAP.



CHAPTER X.

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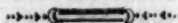
"Woes cluster;—rare are solitary woes;—

"They love a train,—they tread each other's heel."

YOUNG'S NIGHT THOUGHTS.

MR. Westby, after a fortnight's stay at the Lodge, prevailed upon Mr. Ormond to accompany him home to an elegant little villa a few miles out of Plymouth; which he had lately purchased for a summer residence.--- The delight he promised himself in being again surrounded by his own family, and in the prospect of enjoying (for a time) the company and conversation of his friend, unrestrained by the presence of *Mrs.* Ormond, tended to give his spirits an uncommon degree of elevation.--- His cheerfulness had so powerful an effect on Mr. Ormond, that during the last stage of their journey, both seemed to have forgot their sorrows.---

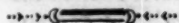
In



In this happy state of mind they entered the court-yard, alighted from the carriage, and walked directly into the house. Alas! how transient is human happiness! --- How deeply distressing to the feelings of the husband and the father was the scene that awaited Mr. Westby! whose ideal enjoyments were all to be suddenly annihilated by a tale of horror!

Not to keep my readers in suspense, I must inform them, that Miss Westby, the eldest of his daughters, had, in his absence, been for a few days on a visit to a family, at the distance of eight miles. Previous to her departure from home, she had engaged her mother in a promise to send for her back the day on which her beloved father was to return. In conformity with this promise, Mrs. Westby had that morning sent a servant to her, with a horse and pillion. --- Unhappily one of the young ladies she was with, persuaded her to ride *her* horse; --- a fine showy creature, recently purchased for its beauty. --- Miss Westby having been out upon it several times during her visit, entertained no idea of danger, therefore readily accepted the offer, as she preferred riding single. --- She was within a mile of her own habitation,

habitation, when, the horse taking fright at the report of a gun from an adjoining field, ran away with her. --- Her attendant, anxious to render her assistance, made the utmost speed to get up with her:---but whip and spur proved useless on the occasion.---His horse was unable to keep pace with her's, and she was carried near half a mile, when she was thrown off close by the side of a loaded waggon, at that moment passing along; one of the wheels of which going directly over her head, she was instantly deprived of life. An elderly gentleman, then upon the road, saw the whole of the fatal accident from his carriage;---he alighted immediately as it came up with her, and just as her servant had reached the spot.---The latter was almost frantic at the dreadful catastrophe.---He wept, tore his hair up by the roots, and repeatedly wished his own life had fell a sacrifice instead of her's.---In the exclamations sorrow extorted, he gave her incoherently the most exalted character.---Mr. Gilmore listened for some time with patience and with pity to his pathetic lamentations; but at length was obliged to interrupt them, to enquire the name, family, and residence of the unfortunate young lady.---
Having



Having learned these particulars, he, with the assistance of his attendants, placed her in his own carriage, then humanely directing one of them to pay proper attention to the man, and conduct him home carefully, he got in himself, and drove to Mr. Westby's villa: but stopping within a few yards of it, drew up the blinds, alighted; and leaving the corpse in charge of his servants, walked forwards, meditating, as he went, in what manner *tenderly* to inform the family of the event. In this design he had, most unfortunately, been anticipated by an ignorant countryman, who was passing by just as they were raising Miss Westby from the ground,---staid long enough to hear the melancholy particulars,---and, being one of those *untinking, unfeeling* mortals, who had rather carry *evil* tidings than none, clapped spurs to his beast, and hastened away to Mr. Westby's kitchen;---but meeting one of the maid-servants in the courtyard, he stopped her directly under a window of the parlor, near which Mrs. Westby was sitting at work with the sash open, and eagerly told the whole affair;---not even omitting to mention, "that he saw the brains
" of Miss Westby laying scattered about the
" road;

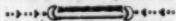


“road;---and added,---“that every bone in
“her skin was crushed to pieces.”---The
girl faintly exclaimed---“Oh! my poor af-
“flicted master and mistress!!”---and sunk
to the earth in a state of insensibility.---
Another servant seeing her fall, went out
to her assistance; but had no sooner reached
the spot, than her attention was instantly
called off, by the deep, heart-rending groans
and sighs issuing from the parlor; when,
quickly turning her face to the window, she
saw Mrs. Westby in strong hysterics.---
She immediately ran to her mistress, and
applied the usual remedies,---but in vain;
---therefore called loudly for help;---which
roused the other from her fainting fit;
---and the gardener entering the court-
yard, and hearing the outcry, they both ran
in together;---while the foolish fellow, who
had caused the distress, slunk away to tell
the news to others less interested. At this
moment, Mr. Gilmore appearing at the
gate, the gardener went out to him.---He
asked for Mr. Westby, and was told “he
“had been absent from home some time,
“but was expected every minute.”---He
then desired to see Mrs. Westby:---the
man hesitatingly said, “she was engaged
“just

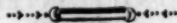


"just then, and could not be seen"---To which he impatiently replied, "I have an affair of the utmost consequence, to communicate, and therefore *must* see her; so do conduct me to her immediately."---The gardener, agitated and scarcely knowing what he did, obeyed in silence.---Mr. Gilmore started, turned pale, and exclaimed, ---"Alas! alas! the tale of woe has already reached her, and I fear too, with all its horrid circumstances."---The servant to whom it had been imparted, knew what he meant, and burst into tears;---the other two turned their eyes full upon him, for information;---he understood their looks, but only said, ---"Ah! your unfortunate young lady!"---then looking at Mrs. Westby, and then at the servants, he added, ---"But why have you not got a doctor?---it is highly proper to send for one immediately.---If you'll direct me where to go, I'll fetch one instantly."---They gladly accepted his offer, and he left them. Recollecting how his chariot was occupied, he ordered his servants to bring in the body as secretly as possible. They did so while he remained in the hall, with intention to place it in an adjoining room,

lock



lock the door, and put the key in his pocket; but, the two youngest Miss Westby's, who had been walking in the gardens, hearing the sound of a carriage approaching the house, and, imagining it was their father, made the utmost haste to welcome him on his return, and entered on the opposite side of the hall, just at the moment that the mangled remains of their beloved sister were conveying through it.---The eldest of them uttered a loud scream, and fell to the ground;---the other stood, supported by the door-post, perfectly motionless;---neither sigh nor tear escaped her:---her figure more strongly representing a beautiful piece of petrefaction, than that of a being endued with life and animation. Mr. Gilmore was greatly affected.---He took Charlotte up in his arms, and conveyed her to a sofa; then led in Maria, whom he placed by the side of her sister; and having requested for them the attention of the servants, he got into his carriage, and drove with speed for the gentlemen of the faculty.---Ineffectual were all the efforts of the affectionate domestics, for the recovery of their mistress;---deep sighs and groans were the only symptoms that she still



still existed:---while Charlotte could only be revived from one fainting fit, to relapse immediately into another.---And poor Maria, speechless and inattentive to every surrounding object, sat on the sopha, with looks depicting inexpressible agony.---They were all in this distressing situation, when Mr. Westby and Mr. Ormond entered the parlor.---They were both horror-struck at the affecting scene, and it was some moments before either of them could speak; at length the former, in faltering accents, said,

“What has happened? for God’s sake tell me what has happened?”

The servants, with affectionate assiduity, were too busily engaged to observe his entrance; and, ’till his question awakened their attention, they knew not that he was present.---They turned their eyes towards him;---their tears flowed afresh, and were the only reply that any of them could make to his interrogation.---His terrors were consequently increased.---He stood transfixed to the floor; while, divided between his conjugal and his paternal tenderness, he looked alternately at his wife and children, with a sorrow too deep for expression.

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and clasped his hands together in all the bitterness of heart-felt woe. At this moment, Mr. Gilmore, without ceremony, re-entered the room, followed by the physician and the apothecary who usually attended the family. The last mentioned gentleman, being much accustomed to the company of ladies, was, of course, in the habit of using a great deal of *small-talk*: (a habit which is generally allowed to be extremely advantageous to persons of *weak intellects*, as it has no connection with the *head* or the *heart* of the speaker, and requiring neither depth of understanding, nor delicacy of feeling, saves all that vast *fatigue* and *trouble*, which attends the exercise of *thought*, previous to *expression*).--- This gentleman, though skilful in his professional line, was nevertheless much obliged to his habit of *small-talk*, for the great degree of reputation he had acquired. His volubility was ready upon every occasion; and, he took care never to lose an opportunity that offered, of paying his respects to his friends, upon all events that called for gratulation or condolence.----Consistent with this, his constant practice, he no sooner saw Mr. Westby, than he made up to him,

him, and, wholly regardless of his agornized countenance, expressed his *pleasure* at seeing him returned:---then, in the same breath (and with a look as well suited to mirth, as mourning) was beginning to utter his *concern* for the melancholy event which had just happened in the family. His words caught the ear of Mr. Gilmore, who immediately advanced towards them, and interrupted him, by saying,

“ I believe, Sir, you are not aware that
 “ Mr. Westby has been returned home so
 “ short a time?---it is hardly possible for
 “ him yet to have been informed of that
 “ event, or any other particulars attending
 “ it, than what are now present to his view;
 “ and, as such information should be given
 “ with great caution, to one so tenderly in-
 “ terested, I think it would be better to de-
 “ fer the subject:---we will therefore leave
 “ the doctor and you to take care of the
 “ ladies, while Mr. Westby retires with me
 “ to another apartment.”

Having thus said, he took Mr. Westby by the arm, and walked with him out of the parlor; Mr. Ormond followed them, mechanically, 'till they entered the drawing-room.---A sort of melancholy silence pre-



vailed for some minutes, during which Mr. Westby was making a manly effort to collect his spirits and recover utterance to enquire into a circumstance, which, however painful it might be, he judged to be less intolerable than the dreadful state of suspense he was held in. He was beginning, with a faltering voice, to address the stranger, but Mr. Gilmore prevented his proceeding, and with humanity and tenderness, saved him the painful task of enquiry, by sacrificing his own feelings to the benevolent purpose of alleviating, in some degree, the weight of his affliction, by a gentle sympathetic manner of giving him the necessary information.---To be the bearer of afflicting intelligence, is always distressing to a good mind.---Mr. Gilmore had one of the best, and his countenance strongly indicated his sufferings on this occasion. He could easily judge what Mr. Westby must endure at the recital; therefore, suppressed as much of the horrid particulars as he possibly could with propriety.---What it was absolutely *necessary* to reveal, was too shocking to be heard without a pang, even by those totally uninterested.---The effect it had on Mr. Westby, is more easily imagined than described.

scribed. --- Mr. Ormond shared his distress: it revived that which he had felt for the loss of his own children, and opened afresh those wounds in his mind, which had been so very lately healed.

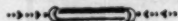
Mr. Gilmore, though a religious man, knew human nature too well to be insensible of the inutility (not to say impertinence) of offering to a person, in the paroxism of grief, that condolence which is usually blended with exhortations to pious resignation, and humble submission to the will of God: --- he therefore, displayed his compassion, only by silent sympathy; and presently withdrew, to obtain some intelligence of the rest of the family. --- He found the parlor deserted by all but the physician, from whom he learned, "that, Mrs. Westby and Charlotte were awakened from the state of insensibility in which he had found them, to that of the keenest anguish. --- That, in consequence of his directions, they, as well as Maria, were put to bed, with strict orders to be kept perfectly quiet." --- He added, --- that he did not see, at present, any dangerous symptoms in the two former; but, he was under the strongest apprehensions

THE DISAPPOINTED HEIR.

“ for the safety of the latter, who still remained in the same way, no one having yet been able to draw a tear or a word from her.---That the hope of some favorable change taking place, had determined him to stop a few hours, to wait the effect of a medicine, which, the apothecary, by his desire, was gone home to prepare.” ’Till that day, Mr. Westby’s family were utterly unknown to Mr. Gilmore, notwithstanding which, he felt himself too strongly interested in their welfare, to support the idea of leaving them in that calamitous situation: --- he therefore returned to the drawing-room, accompanied by the doctor, and had the satisfaction to find Mr. Westby, though not less afflicted, yet, apparently more composed.---He enquired after his lady and daughters with visible anxiety, and requested permission to see them, which was granted by the doctor, upon condition, that *he* was to go up first, and prepare them for the interview. The melancholy sight of his youngest daughter had a powerful effect upon him;--his fears were alarmed for her, and his thoughts, intently occupied upon that subject, were detached insensibly from the daughter he had lost. On quitting her apartment,

apartment, he eagerly asked the doctor his opinion of her case;---but that gentleman evaded giving it:---he had felt her pulse, and found a fever was come on;---it increased with such rapidity, that, before midnight, she was in the height of delirium. In the morning, Mrs. Westby's tender enquiries after her children, rendered it impossible to conceal from her the situation of Maria.---The feelings of maternal anxiety were immediately awakened;---she forgot her late calamity;---she forgot her own indisposition, left her bed directly, and became the nurse to her child, (in which office, Charlotte was her principal assistant) and, their mutual assiduity to avert an *impending* evil, greatly helped to destroy the remembrance of the *past*. Mr. Gilmore departed the next afternoon;---and, Maria continuing still in a very dangerous way, the attention of the whole family was entirely engrossed by her. Mr. Ormond, like a real friend, took advantage of that circumstance, to direct the interment of the late Miss Westby, which was done with the utmost privacy.

In a fortnight after, Maria began to shew signs of recovery;---but, her mental facul-



ties seemed much impaired.---Her parents, however, flattered themselves with an idea, that returning health and strength would in time restore them to their former state. The doctor recommended change of air, and diversity of scene;---and, as she was of a consumptive habit, he thought the water of Bristol hot-well might prove very efficacious. In consequence of this advice, they all set out for that place in a few days, and Mr. Ormond returned to Ormond Lodge, without any increase of health or spirits, having had his feelings too severely exercised, by the late unhappy events in the family of his earliest friend.



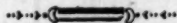


CHAPTER XI.

“So gay,
“Yet empty of all good; wherein consists
“Woman’s domestic honor and chief praise.”

LADY Thornby having engaged to pass the day with Mrs. Ormond, went early to the Lodge.---The two ladies were sitting *tete a tete*, when Mr. Ormond surprized them by his presence; his return being wholly unexpected. Her Ladyship had been in tears, and was removing the handkerchief from her eyes, at the moment he entered. His heart sunk with the apprehension of some new disaster; and, in a tremulous voice, he exclaimed,

“What distress awaits me now?---keep
“me not in suspence, my Lady, but tell me
“at once, what mean those tears you were
“wiping off, when I entered?”---Mrs. Or-



mond *laughed out*; but her Ladyship, with a *smile of serenity*, replied,

“ I am very sorry to have caused you this
 “ alarm; but indeed, my dear Sir, my tears
 “ were only the effect of maternal and
 “ conjugal tenderness.---My beloved Lord
 “ Thornby left me yesterday, to join the
 “ fleet, now laying at Spithead, ready to
 “ sail; and my noble boy, aspiring to tread
 “ the path of glory with his father, so ear-
 “ nestly desired to accompany him on the
 “ cruize, that I was compelled to yield a
 “ most reluctant consent;---and now, here
 “ am I, like a true woman, lamenting their
 “ mutual absence, and trembling for their
 “ safety:---while my loved Lord, proud of
 “ his heroic son, is perhaps, introducing
 “ him to all the superior officers in the
 “ fleet, and flattering himself with the ambi-
 “ tious hope of his early advancement to
 “ a flag.

“ Well, my dear lady”---said Mr. Ormond
 ---“ my heart is at present tuned to soft-
 “ ness, and I can sympathize in your tender
 “ sorrow.” Then embracing Mrs. Ormond,
 and viewing her with his usual partiality, he
 added,---“ Pardon me, my Harriet, for suf-
 “ fering fear to take such entire possession
 “ of

“ of my mind, as to cause me to overlook
 “ *you*; --- the only apology I can plead, is the
 “ present weakness of my nerves.”

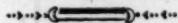
“ Indeed, Mr. Ormond” --- returned she ---
 “ it is unnecessary to make *any* apology, as
 “ I was not sensible of any want of atten-
 “ tion in you. --- Our separation has not been
 “ very long, you know.”

“ *I* thought differently, Harriet” --- re-
 plied he, with an air of chagrin and dis-
 appointment.

“ Oh! I do not doubt that” --- cried Mrs.
 Ormond --- “ every hour must have appeared
 “ to you as long as a day; and, I rather won-
 “ der you staid so long. --- If it had been me,
 “ I should have come away directly. --- A
 “ house filled with distress and sickness, is
 “ melancholy enough; and, those who have
 “ no concern with it, are very foolish to stay
 “ in such a place, out of complaisance to
 “ any body.”

“ True, Harriet” --- resumed he --- “ but
 “ I was not actuated by complaisance; ---
 “ my motives were humanity and friend-
 “ ship.”

“ Methinks” --- rejoined she --- “ it is car-
 “ rying friendship a great deal farther than
 “ is necessary, when one injures one’s own



“health by it.--- However, Mr. Ormond” --- she continued--- “you must absolutely get “the better of these vaporish fits:--- I declare, the moment you entered the room, “you turned as pale as a sheet, and trembled from head to foot.--- If my life had “been at stake, I could not have helped “laughing at the ridiculous figure you cut. “--- What! because you have once in your “life been witness of a melancholy accident, “are you always to live in constant expectation of meeting them?”

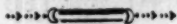
“Certainly not, Harriet:” --- returned Mr. Ormond, gravely--- “but my nerves, unstrung by former indisposition, and my “spirits, of late, powerfully affected by the “calamities of my friend; it is, I think, “hardly to be wondered at, that they take “alarm on every trivial occasion:--- but my “intellectual faculties are still as strong as “ever; and therefore, my lovely girl”--- continued he, taking her hand and pressing it to his lips, with a smile of good humor--- “I cannot be insensible to the kindness of “your intention, in thus endeavoring to restore my spirits, by rallying away all “gloomy ideas; nor will I prove so ungrateful, as to render your efforts ineffectual:

“fectual: --- at present we will drop the subject, and you shall indulge me with a sight of my boy and girls.”

“There now! --- that’s always your way, Mr. Ormond” --- cried she --- “you absolutely spoil them all, by giving ’em so much consequence; --- you know they constantly come into our presence *once* a day, to pay their respects, and that is quite sufficient. --- Cannot you wait ’till the usual time of their appearance?”

“No! indeed he *cannot*, my good Madam” --- cried Lady Thornby, with quickness --- “for I perceive Mr. Ormond has discovered, by *intuition*, that my Jane is amongst them; and thinks he should be guilty of the utmost rudeness to *me*, if he did not appear impatient to see *her*, after almost a month’s absence. --- Neither am I quite sure I should not have been affronted, if he had acted contrary; for I am one of those mothers, who are foolish enough to be delighted with the remarks my friends make upon her personal improvements, and mental accomplishments.”

“I have a great mind, my Lady” --- said Mr. Ormond, with an air of gaiety --- “to
“mortify



“mortify your vanity, by not making a single remark upon either.”

“O we’ll see that, presently;” --- resumed her Ladyship, rising and drawing the bell,---
 “I am impatient to convince you that you will not be able to avoid it.” --- A servant appeared. --- Mr. Ormond gave his orders, and in consequence the children presently entered the room. A view of the lovely groupe was sufficient to plead an apology for parental fondness. --- Lady Thornby had a mind made up of softness and sensibility, and contemplated the scene before her with delight, almost rising to rapture. While Mrs. Ormond sat unmoved; attentive only to the needle in her fingers, she scarce vouchsafed them a look. --- Joy, at the return of their father, light up their beauteous countenances; they expressed it in the language of innocence, and the actions of endearing tenderness. At length, Henry, the eldest of them, cried out,

“But, papa, I have sad news to tell you:
 “---do you know I have lost my friend? --- I
 “am sure you’ll be very sorry to hear it.”

“I am very sorry indeed, my dear boy”
 --- said Mr. Ormond --- “because the loss of
 “a friend is a severe stroke to those who
 “know

"know how to estimate friendship:---a
 "friend is worth all bazards we can run:---
 "the world, in purchase for a friend, is
 "gain.--- But pray, Henry"--- continued
 Mr. Ormond--- "who is it, amongst all your
 "intimates, whom you dignify with that
 "exalted title?"

"Dear papa!"---returned Henry with a
 look of the utmost surprize--- "what a
 "question!!---whom *should* it be but Lord
 "Hermon?"

"I do not rightly understand the affair
 "then"---said Mr. Ormond--- "for you
 "tell me, Henry, you have *lost* a friend,
 "and I do not think Lord Hermon *is* lost."

"Why, dear me, papa!---cried Henry im-
 patiently--- "I have lost him indeed:--- he
 "is gone to sea with Lord Thornby:---and
 "here's my poor sister Kitty---and Lady
 "Jane, have been crying so:---I believe I
 "could have cried too---but I thought it
 "would only make them more uneasy, so
 "I passed it off as well as I could."

"Ah! you are all a parcel of simpletons,"
 ---said Mr. Ormond--- "don't you know
 "we are to have a peace soon, and then
 "Lord Hermon and Lord Thornby will
 "come back, and stay quietly at home
 "with

“ with us. This is only a short separation,
“ calculated to give a higher zest to your
“ future enjoyment of each others’ company
“ and conversation. --- But Henry” --- added
he --- “ I’ll tell you a secret : --- if you do
“ not take great pains to make improve-
“ ments in the absence of Lord Hermon,
“ you’ll have the mortification of seeing
“ him return such a fine fellow, so much
“ improved, and so greatly your superior,
“ that you will be ashamed of yourself, and
“ he will be ashamed to acknowledge you
“ as his friend.”

“ But I’ll be up with him there, though
“ papa, I warrant me,” --- cried Henry, with
a consequential look --- “ for Mr. Williams
“ says, if I continue to make as close ap-
“ plication as I have done hitherto, I shall
“ improve rapidly : --- so let me take care
“ of that. --- Oh ! papa, I have something
“ else to tell you” --- added he --- “ when
“ Lord Thornby was here, yesterday, he
“ told Kitty, that Lord Hermon should be
“ an admiral, and then she should be an
“ admiral’s lady, and she says she won’t.”

“ No, nor I won’t” --- cried Kitty, burst-
ing into tears --- “ I do’n’t like to be an
“ admiral’s lady, for I *bate* admirals.”

“ Poor



"Poor Kate"---cried Mr. Ormond, drawing her towards him---"I am sorry you are so distressed about the matter; but my love you don't know what an admiral is. ---I believe you never saw one in your life."

"Yes I have indeed, papa"---returned she---"and I did not like him at all. You know who I mean, papa; it was admiral S---, that came here to dinner one day with Lord Thornby.---I shall never forget him, he was such a great big *ugly* man, and used such *very* wicked words. ---If Lord Hermon should be as big and ugly as he, and say such wicked words, I should always *bate* him."

"If he ever should use such words"---rejoined Lady Thornby---"I don't know but I should hate him too;---but my sweet girl, you must remember, that *that* is greatly owing to the defect in education, and not always proceeding from a vicious heart.---Admiral S---, is indeed a very worthy, though not a very pleasing man. ---He was once, my dear, only a poor sailor; and, having had no education to raise his mind superior to his situation, he insensibly acquired a habit of speaking
"like

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THE DISAPPOINTED HEIR.

“ like his companions; and now he is grown
“ old, the habit sticks close to him, as bad
“ habits always do.---As to his person, that
“ is injured by time, hard usage, and dif-
“ ferent climates.---The same things may
“ possibly cause the like alteration in my
“ Frederick, but he ought not to be despised
“ for it.---The same God that made *you*,
“ my love, made *him*, *admiral S----*, and
“ *every human being*:---the formation of
“ every creature is according to his plea-
“ sure; and, all those accidental alterations
“ in personal appearance, are the effect of
“ his power.”

Little Kate regarded her Ladyship as an oracle, and was all ear 'till she had done speaking; when a servant entering to inform them dinner waited in the nursery, the young folks were obliged to retire, though with evident reluctance.---They would far rather have sacrificed the gratification of their sensual appetites, than relinquish the happiness they enjoyed in the company of their father and Lady Thornby, whose tender attention had engaged their warmest affections; while that which they felt for their mother, was merely instinctive.---The indifference she displayed for them,
and

and the coldness and *bauteur* of her carriage towards them, created fear, in their young minds, rather than love; and, her company was, of course, more shunned, than sought by them,





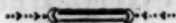
CHAPTER XII.

"He's but a wretch, with all his wealth,
"That wears a narrow soul."

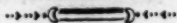
WATTS.

A Correspondence more frequent than usual, was now held between Mr. Westby and Mr. Ormond:---the friendship of the latter, being too firmly rooted, for him to be able to divest himself of anxiety for the family of the former; and, it was with much concern, that he learned poor Maria Westby derived no visible advantage, from either change of air, mineral springs, or medical skill.---Her intellectual faculties gained no additional strength, during her absence from home; and, in a few weeks after her return, she fell into a confirmed melancholy; which, together with a consumption, caused a speedy termination of her

her



her existence. The exquisite distress her parents had endured on account of her unhappy malady, greatly reconciled them to her loss. They considered, that, through the derangement of her mind, they had long lost all that was truly valuable in her; death only removed from their sight, an object, destructive of their comfort; in exchange for which, religion held out to their contemplation, the unutterable bliss that beloved object enjoyed, from having thrown off the shackles of mortality.---Charlotte, their only surviving child, now claimed all their attention:---she appeared to be following her sisters:---her health visibly declined, and her appetite forsook her; but she supported her spirits, that she might not cause additional depression to the spirits of those, whose ease and happiness were more desirable to her than life itself. Every letter from Mr. Westby, brought a painful account of the increase of her disorder. On the return of spring, Mr. Ormond visited them again:---he saw a great alteration in her looks, but flattered himself with the hope Westby's apprehensions had magnified the danger.---He wished her recovery, and therefore thought it a very probable circumstance



cumstance ; and, with this thought, he endeavored to cheer the minds of his friends. --- They were flattered into a temporary suspension from fear ; and, with alacrity, prepared to devote the ensuing summer to travelling from place to place, for the benefit of change of air. The first place they visited, was M-----, in Yorkshire, the residence of Mr. Hanmore ; who having in trade acquired a fortune, which he deemed sufficient, had declined business in favor of his sons, and retired about two years before. --- Mr. Ormond accompanied them to his house ; and, after a few days stay, left them, and returned home. --- He had the satisfaction of finding his friend, Lord Thornby, had arrived at Park-Hill Place two days before. The preliminaries of peace between England and America being agreed to, this brave weather-beaten mariner, had (to use his own expression) the happiness “ *to cast anchor on his native shore, and lay too for the rest of his life* : ” --- but the young Lord Hermon disdained the thought ; --- being entered on the books, as a midshipman, he chose to fill his place, therefore went out again in a frigate to the West-Indies, under the command of -----.

About

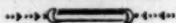
About the latter end of the year, Mrs. Ormond again shewed signs of pregnancy: ---a circumstance as delightful to her amiable husband, as it was unwelcome to herself. She loved money by many degrees better than she loved children; and, at length proposed to him to make some retrenchment in their expences. --- He, at first, only rallied and laughed at her; but, when he found her really serious, his astonishment was inexpressible, and he began to fear her head was disordered; for, he never suspected that the defect lay in her *heart*. --- He remonstrated with her tenderly, yet, energetically upon the subject; with the hope of giving ease to her mind; and, drew up an exact statement of his affairs, gave it into her hand, and left it with her. --- She examined it accurately, and had the pleasure to find, that the fortune of Mr. Ormond, had been accumulating greatly for several years, notwithstanding the increase of their family; and, that he possessed wealth beyond her expectations. Strange as it may seem, this discovery served no other purpose, than that of stimulating her eager desires for more, and she determined to struggle hard for some capital retrenchment. ---

Thus,

THE DISAPPOINTED HEIR.

Thus, it ever is with the mind which avarice takes possession of; every fresh acquisition creates a stronger wish for further increase; and, if inexhaustible mines of treasure were their own, still their desires would be unsatisfied. Covetousness knows no bounds; and, but for the laws, would seldom submit to the restraints even of common honesty: the barrier of justice it will over-leap, whenever a prospect is presented of doing it with safety to person and property. --- Yet, after all the pains, all the sacrifices of rectitude, honor, and conscience, to amass riches, where is the enjoyment? where is the felicity, which the covetuous mind flattered itself with deriving from them? alas! it is no where to be found, but in acts of piety; in which is comprehended, not merely love to God, but also good will to man; best demonstrated by tender compassion, sympathy, and a performance of the offices of kindness and benevolence. The miser is a stranger to all such delights; it is in vain that the voice of distress assails his ear; he cannot relieve it! --- his wealth is useless! --- it procures no advantages for others; no happiness for himself: --- but then, like Achan, he can say, “ behold
“ it

THE DISAPPOINTED HEIR.

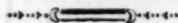


"it is hid in the earth, in the midst of
 "my tent;" he can feast his eyes with the
 sight of it:---poor wretch, he trembles per-
 petually for its safety! yet dreams not, that
 the anxiety he endures, is only a very small
 part of the curse of God, which, (as it
 lay upon the camp of Israel to trouble it,
 for Achan's transgression,) lays also upon
 upon him! The miser, is considered as
 the enemy of all mankind; and having
 lived unbeloved, dies unlamented. I make
 no apology for this digression; the liberal
 mind will readily pardon it, and the sordid
 one will not purchase for itself an oppor-
 tunity of censuring it.

When Mr. Ormond came again into the
 presence of his lady, he accosted her, with,

"Well, my dear Harriet, you are now,
 "I hope, convinced, that our expences have
 "not yet overgrown our abilities to
 "supply them; and, consequently, it is
 "unnecessary to talk of retrenching."

"I by no means agree with you there,"---
 replied she--- "for, I still think, that, with
 "such a family as we have, it would be
 "but prudent to take care in time.--- You
 "know, Mr. Ormond, that every necessary
 "of life is rising daily; the childrens' cloath-
 Vol. 1. G ing



“ing is pretty expensive now, and will be
 “more so as they grow bigger.---Then
 “again, the heavy expences attending my
 “lying-in! *doctor! nurses!* oh! dear me!
 “I dare hardly turn my thoughts that way,
 “for I declare it makes me tremble but to
 “think of it.”-----

“Never fear, Harriet”---cried he---“I’ll
 “answer for being able to support it all,
 “without any difficulties arising in conse-
 “quence.”

“Ah! Mr. Ormond, my *poor dear* fa-
 “ther once thought himself as secure, but
 “the event proved how much he was mista-
 “ken;---and something whispers me, that
 “you will prove equally so:---my fore-
 “boding heart dreads the danger; and my
 “prudence would prevent it, if possible.”

“And now, my *too* fearful Harriet”---
 said Mr. Ormond, smiling---“do gratify my
 “curiosity, by informing me, what plans
 “your prudence would suggest, to avoid
 “the evil you are in such unnecessary ex-
 “pectation of?”

“Nay, now my dearest Mr. Ormond,”---
 resumed the Lady, in a coaxing accent---
 “do not make a jest of me; you know not
 “what I endure on this account; it would
 “be

“be terrible to me to be a *second* time reduced to poverty and dependance. But, should there be no occasion for my fears, yet, my love, you might indulge me, by falling in with my wishes, to retrench a little:---it could do no harm, you know, and might do a great deal of good in the long run.”---She paused, viewed Mr. Ormond attentively, and observing he listened to her in silence, without any marks of displeasure, she proceeded thus.---“You must, my dear good creature, be sensible, that the way in which these children of ours are educating, is attended with an enormous expence; only consider now, what an extravagant salary you pay Mr. Williams; and, then -----”

“Mr. Williams is a *gentleman*, Harriet”---interrupted he, rather indignantly.

“Don’t interrupt me, Mr. Ormond, I make no dispute about his being a gentleman; I only say his salary is enormous; and having his board in the house, is a great addition to it. Then the salary, board, lodging, and washing to Mrs. Stacey too, is another heavy affair upon us. Both these we might very well do with-

“out, and we should find it a *very great saving.*”

“I believe, my dear Harriet, we should, on the contrary, find it a *very great loss*” --- returned Mr. Ormond --- “for I know not where we must look for persons of the same degree of merit to fill their places.”

“I would not fill their places at all” --- cried Mrs. Ormond --- “because that would not remedy the evil. --- No, indeed, I would keep neither tutor nor governess; --- I consider them both as very unnecessary.”

“And what then” --- asked Mr. Ormond --- “would you do with the children? since, I assure you, my love, my education has not been such, as qualifies me, by any means, for taking upon myself the pleasing office of tutor to Henry; --- and, I am certain, the task of educating the girls, is what your spirits are not calculated to undergo.”

“Such a thing never once entered my ideas” --- returned she; --- “no, my darling Ormond, I have formed a much better plan: --- let Mr. Williams and Mrs. Stacey be immediately dismissed; send Henry to an academy; Kitty and Margaretta to a

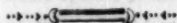
“boarding-

“boarding-school; and, then, as there will
 “be only little Harriet left at home, *one* nur-
 “sery maid will be sufficient;---so there’s
 “*another* expence lopped off you see.---As
 “to the children, their education and main-
 “tenance both, will cost us little more than
 “the bare maintaining of them at home
 “costs.---The expence of academies and
 “boarding schools is come down so low
 “now, that I think it is the cheapest way
 “of disposing of children, and I shall not
 “be easy ’till mine are so disposed of.”

“Harriet”---said Mr. Ormond, with a
 grave, and a determined countenance---“I
 “have found some difficulty in believing you
 “to be in earnest.---I am sorry it is impossi-
 “ble for me any longer to entertain a doubt.
 “You now compel me to treat the subject
 “with a seriousness I had no intention to
 “display. If you are inclined to do me jus-
 “tice, you will allow, that, from the day we
 “were married, down to this day, I have
 “never once discovered an inclination to
 “thwart your wishes, but have often sacri-
 “ficed my own, to yield to your’s, while, in
 “some instances, I have been conscious
 “of a degree of weakness, I should almost
 “blush to own.---But, in the matter we are

“ now debating upon, I feel the interest and
“ welfare of my offspring too nearly con-
“ cerned, to *dare* to relinquish that right,
“ which God and Nature have given me
“ over *you* and *them*. -- My honor and my
“ conscience oblige me, therefore, to tell
“ you, in positive terms, that I neither *can*
“ nor *will* ever grant my concurrence with
“ the plan you have just stated to me; nor
“ shall it ever be adopted, so long as I re-
“ tain my existence and my reason. --- That
“ we may never discuss the painful subject
“ again, allow me now to tell you, that it is
“ *my pleasure* to continue Mr. Williams in
“ his present situation, so long as my son
“ requires his instructions, and my resi-
“ dence continues to be agreeable to him.
“ And, unless Mrs. Stacey should give you
“ some *just* and *reasonable* cause of offence,
“ you will displease me extremely, by ex-
“ pressing a wish for her removal.”

Mr. Ormond then (without seeming to expect a reply) rung the bell, ordered his horse, and directly quitted the room, to prepare for his ride. --- His mind was discomposed, and his temper rather ruffled: --- he wished to recover his usual serenity, and departed for that purpose. --- This was the first



first time he had positively refused his compliance with Mrs. Ormond's wishes; and such was the extent of his good nature and affection towards her, that he felt infinite pain at having been obliged to do it now: --- nor could he, for some time, reconcile to himself the authoritative manner in which he had spoken to her, notwithstanding he was convinced of its propriety. --- Mrs. Ormond, on the other hand, was surprized by his spirited manner of speaking, and awed into silence; but her mind was still unhurt, unaffected: --- *that* being armed with the invulnerable shield of insensibility, and want of feeling. Reflection, indeed, caused her some uneasy sensations, arising from a fear that she had inadvertently removed the bandage from his eyes, and let him see too much of her real character, which might be a means of injuring her own future interest. She now clearly discovered, that, though sweet tempered, he was not the weak man she had foolishly supposed him. --- She was sensible it would be a vain attempt to do away his prejudices, by saying any thing to soften or smooth what had passed her lips in the previous conversation; -- the device would be too shallow to pass upon him;

and, she was totally at a loss how to conduct herself at their next meeting, therefore rather dreaded, than wished his return. So awkwardly did she feel herself circumstanced, that she would have gone out for the day, in order to avoid him, had she not been apprehensive he would view that as a mark of resentment. After long deliberation, she determined to say no more to him upon the subject, but submit to his will, without discovering to him the reluctance she felt. --- "He cannot" --- said she, mentally --- "live a vast while longer, I think; "and, when he is gone, I'll take care to "have things my own way." --- She had just finished her deliberations, when Mr. Ormond returned to dinner, and with him Lord and Lady Thornby. --- He had perfectly regained his composure, and met his lady with as much ease and good nature, as if nothing disagreeable had passed between them; and, the rest of the day passed off pleasantly, in the company of their amiable guests.

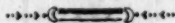


CHAPTER XIII.

"Yes! I will bear my sorrows as a man:—
"But—I must also *feel* them as a man:—
"I cannot but remember such things *were*;
"And were most pleasant to me."

SHAKESPEARE.

Notwithstanding Mrs. Ormond appeared to submit cheerfully, and ceased any farther to press her *saving* schemes on the ear of Mr. Ormond; yet, she secretly planned many, which she intended executing. This she knew was easy to be done, as his open, unsuspecting disposition, prevented his prying into the domestic concerns of his house.---So long as matters seemed to him to go on in their usual channel, he was perfectly satisfied. She expected that her new arrangements would cause some murmurings in the servants' hall; and, perhaps a general evacuation of places:---but these were not objects of



sufficient magnitude to deter her from her purpose. Having no one to assist her in this great revolutionary work, she determined to commence it artfully; and, proceed in it very gradually. --- The nursery was the first apartment she opened her batteries against; and, so successful was she there, that she speedily reduced the young ladies table (at which Mrs. Stacey presided) to coarse, ordinary fare, served by *weight* and *measure*. Mrs. Stacey had sufficient penetration to discern, without enquiring who gave directions for the alteration; and, though materially affected by it, yet she forbore to make complaint, or even appear to notice it. She loved her young pupils; and, considering herself, in all other respects, very comfortably situated, she wished to avoid all occasions for removal. This lady, had been always accustomed to live in great affluence: --- she was the widow of a physician of E-----, whose fortune consisted in his profession, and who, dying young, left her and two children, a boy and a girl, with a provision so very small, as to be totally inadequate to their support. --- She had then no other resource, than
going

going out in some genteel capacity.--- Her manners were elegant:---she had great abilities, both natural and acquired; and, of course, was well calculated for the office of preceptress. Lady Thornby had formerly been much in her company; she admired her, and felt the utmost pity for her reduced circumstances.---Her ladyship, in the course of conversation, accidentally had mentioned her to Mr. and Mrs. Ormond, and told her little tale. The former, was then beginning to see the necessity of engaging a governess for his children; and, it was instantly determined to offer that place to her acceptance.---She accepted it with pleasure; and, Mr. Ormond, who made the agreement, engaged her, at a salary much higher than she would, in all probability, have obtained any where else.---*His* parental feelings, inducing him to consider *her's*, and enable her to keep her children at nurse, in a manner satisfactory to herself.---Her gratitude was evinced by the attention she paid to his daughters, much more than by words; and, her whole conduct rendered her a very valuable acquisition.---Mr. Ormond, who was sensible



of her merit, and wished to reward it, was benevolently planning, in secret, a circumstance, from which, he knew she would derive an equal degree of happiness and advantage.---It was happy for Mrs. Ormond she was kept in ignorance of his design; it being of a nature entirely subversive of her own frugal ones. But the following letter from Mr. Westby, obliged him to defer his intention for some time, though not to relinquish it.

“DEAR ORMOND.”

“Judge of my distress, when I inform you, that, after having spent the summer in travelling from place to place, in search of health for my beloved child, she, with her mother and myself, are just returned home, without any advantage derived from the tour.---She is, on the contrary, greatly altered for the worse.---I have had a consultation of physicians, who candidly assure me, that medicine can do nothing for her.---They are unanimous in recommending the air of the South of France; and, thither I intend taking her the next week, though utterly hopeless.”

"less of success.-- Her disorder has made
 "great ravages on her delicate frame;
 "and, I am convinced she has not long
 "to live.---But no means shall be left
 "untried, to snatch her from the grasp
 "of death.---My amiable Kate suffers
 "inexpressibly; and, I tremble, when I
 "reflect on what may be the consequence;
 "when hope, which now supports her, is
 "removed by certainty.---

"Mrs. Ormond's pregnancy, forbids
 "my requesting her to join our melan-
 "choly party; but, if you, my friend,
 "will give us your company, it will be an
 "alleviation of our sorrow, and a sup-
 "port to Mrs. Westby and me, in that
 "impending hour of severe trial, of which
 "I am in constant and dreadful expect-
 "tation:---for, Oh! Ormond, I think it
 "almost impossible my darling girl can
 "live to return with us. But, what am
 "I saying? is not the most High in-
 "finite in power, and boundless in mer-
 "cy?---Adieu! my best friend."

"Your's sincerely,

"GEORGE WESTBY."

P. S. "I expect my brother here on
 "Thursday next:---he tells me, that bu-
 "siness

“siness will oblige him to limit his stay
“with us, to a very few days.”

The tear of sympathy fell from the eye of Mr. Ormond, as he perused the letter.---Having finished, he put it into the hand of Mrs. Ormond, saying,

“Friendship and humanity demand my
“compliance;---and, therefore, my Har-
“riet, I flatter myself, will start no ob-
“jection.”

She had, in reality, but one objection to make; and, as that was only to the *expence* it would put him to, she forbore to speak it.---Being on other accounts, glad of his absence; she contrived to glean some little consolation, from the idea, that his afflicted companions would not engage him in any *pleasureable* schemes; consequently, the contents of his purse would suffer less diminution, than is generally experienced in a foreign excursion. Mr. Ormond commenced his journey the next day, and reached Plymouth within an hour after the arrival of Mr. Richard Westby.---Could happiness have found an abode in their hearts, this meeting (so unexpected to the latter)
must

must have promoted it--- A gleam of joy diffused itself over their countenances at first sight of each other; but, a glance at the dying Charlotte, the afflicted father, and the anxious mother, sufficed to render it a transitory one.--- Their breasts were instantly filled with tenderness and compassion; --- their attention withdrawn from each other, and fixed entirely on those dear objects of their mutual regard. The third day, Mr. Richard Westby took a melancholy farewell of his beloved relatives, and set out on his return to London.--- They, on the succeeding one, departed, with Mr. Ormond, for the continent.--- On the voyage, Charlotte Westby was severely attacked with sea-sickness:--- her emaciated constitution, unable to support its violence, sunk under it, and, she yielded up her soul into the hands of her Redeemer, a few hours before the vessel came to anchor. The shock which this event gave to all on board, is more easily imagined, than described.--- Mr. and Mrs. Westby, from having been so long in expectation of it, were less shocked, though not less afflicted.--- Their grief, was indeed excessive, but, silently endured,

dured.---They offered up their prayers to the Father of Mercies, for resignation to the stroke; their petitions were heard; they became resigned to the will of heaven; and, while each strove to support the other, under their mutual calamity, comfort and composure took possession of their minds.

Having now no motive for landing in France, they returned immediately to England in the same packet, bringing with them the remains of their deceased child, whom they interred with her sisters. Mr. Ormond continued at Plymouth, near three weeks after the interment, when he endeavored to prevail with Mr. and Mrs. Westby, to accompany him home.---They declined the friendly invitation, 'till time had softened the bitterness of their sorrow, and rendered them more fit for society. He saw the propriety of their refusal; admitted their plea; and, again affectionately bid them adieu.



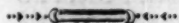
CHAPTER XIV.

“The liberal man deviseth liberal things ;
“And, by liberal things shall he stand.”

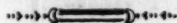
THE benevolent mind of Mr. Ormond, ever active in promoting the welfare and happiness of his fellow-creatures, revolved afresh the little plan he had before laid in favor of Mrs. Stacey. As he travelled along in his carriage, he contrasted *her* circumstances with his own.

“What a pity!”---said he to himself---
“that her fortune is so greatly below her
“merit! She is at least *as* deserving of the
“good things of this life, as I am! and
“would be infinitely *more* so, were I,
“through inattention or parsimony, to neglect
“procuring for her and her’s an advantage
“so easy for me to obtain, and so
“essentially necessary to her and them.”
---He

---He considered the happiness, which, as a parent, he was sensible she must feel; and, he determined not to delay it.---He anticipated her joy at the discovery.---“It will “delight me”---cried he---“I will no longer defer my design.---Mrs. Stacey is “justly esteemed by every inhabitant of “my house; and, in carrying happiness to “*her*, I shall consequently give pleasure to “all.---I must go twelve miles out of my “road;---but what of that?”---This soliloquy was interrupted, by the carriage stopping at the entrance of an inn. Mr. Ormond alighted, looked at his watch, the hour was later than he had imagined; and, recollecting the days were now very short, he thought it most prudent to remain there all night.---Having given orders for his dinner and bed, he was walking out to view the town, when a chaise and four stopping at the gate, attracted his notice. On looking in, the first object he saw, was the worthy Mr. Gilmore. For the instant it awakened some painful sensations in his breast; but they were presently dispelled by the friendly salutations of that gentleman, who recognized him the moment he saw him.---Mr. Gilmore was accompanied by his wife, and



a lovely, elegant girl, who appeared to be about twelve years of age.---Mr. Ormond was struck with the figure of the latter; he glanced his eye on her countenance, and thought her features were not entirely unknown to him. At first view he thought she resembled Mrs. Ormond. A second look he saw in her a resemblance of the Westby family; but these thoughts occupied his mind only for the moment.---He turned again into the house, and led to the room he had left. They followed; and it was presently agreed between them to make one party.---The ladies then retiring to adjust their dress; Mr. Gilmore took that opportunity to enquire after Mr. Westby and his family.---The intelligence Mr. Ormond gave, excited his utmost concern, which he feelingly expressed:---then added---“ This, my dear Sir, is a state of probation:---we all have
 “ our trials in one way or other.--- *I have,*
 “ indeed, had mine; they have been too
 “ severe for time ever to wear out the re-
 “ membrance of them. When you first
 “ saw me at Mr. Westby’s, my breast was
 “ filled with anguish, for an affliction *then*
 “ impending--- *since realized.*” ---He paused,
 and



and sighed. --- Mr. Ormond's compassion was touched; he echoed the sigh; and, in an accent of kindness, said,

"I am sorry! --- extremely sorry! --- may I venture, Sir, to ask from what source that affliction you speak of sprung?"

"From an Almighty Hand!" --- replied Mr. Gilmore --- "whose wisdom saw fit to deprive me of an object dear to my aged heart. --- I had once, Mr. Ormond" --- continued he --- "a friend, a *real* friend. --- Our friendship commenced in childhood; --- we grew up together, and both married in the same year. --- Heaven blest *me* with *two* sons; it gave to my friend only *one*. --- The mother died in giving him birth; --- but the boy lived to comfort the heart of his surviving parent, whose affections, in a short time, centered in his infant son. The latter had but just entered his fifth year, when death deprived *him* of his father; and, *me* of my valued friend. --- On his death-bed he committed the boy to my care: --- I accepted the precious charge; brought him up with my own; and my heart knew no difference in its feelings towards him and them. --- His sweetness of disposition; his amiable propensities; and, above
"all,

“ all, his perfect resemblance to his father,
“ endeared him to me.---I early discovered in
“ him the seeds of ambition.---His fortune
“ was small; and, when he came of age, he
“ wished to augment it in a distant clime.
“ ---He obtained an appointment to the
“ East-Indies, and went from me.---The
“ parting pang was terrible.---Time, and
“ his frequent letters, at length reconciled
“ me, in some measure, to his absence.---
“ He had been gone from me a few years,
“ when the death of my own children made
“ Mrs. Gilmore and me extremely desirous
“ of his return to us; and, I wrote to request
“ it;---but his fortune, at that time, not
“ being sufficient to satisfy his ambition,
“ he was not to be persuaded.---From his
“ next letter I learned, that his affections
“ were engaged by a young lady of rank,
“ the widow of a general officer.---He soon
“ after married her, and she made him the
“ happiest of men.---Her conduct increased
“ his esteem; and, his love gained strength
“ daily.---Providence denied them children:
“ ---they murmured not at its decrees; and,
“ their felicity still continued.---This lady
“ had been many years strongly attached
“ to an amiable young woman, who, some
“ time

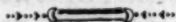
" time after, married and settled near their
 " habitation. --- This female friend, in due
 " time, became the mother of a boy; --- af-
 " ter two years, another boy succeeded to
 " that; --- and, after two more, a lovely girl.
 " --- The lady of my young friend, George
 " Lutridge, was present at the birth, and
 " first received it from the hands of the
 " accoucheur." --- " 'Tis a lovely creature"
 " --- said she --- " and shall be only *mine*." ---
 " The mother consented; and, the infant
 " was brought up in the house of my friend.
 " He, as well as his lady, adopted her, and
 " felt an affection for her equal to parental.
 " --- She was near ten years old, when the
 " health of Mr. Lutridge began to decline
 " fast: --- he entertained an idea, that the air
 " of England, his native climate, would re-
 " store him; and, grew very desirous to
 " return. --- His lady entertained the same
 " idea. --- Strengthened by her hopes, they
 " therefore strove to accelerate their de-
 " parture; but neither of them could bear
 " to leave their little Augusta: --- they ear-
 " nestly entreated to bring her with them.
 " --- The father sighed; the mother wept.
 " --- Parental love dictated refusal, while
 " powerful friendship strongly urged com-
 " pliance;



“pliance; pleading, that a few short years
“would re-unite them all in beloved Eng-
“land.---The latter, at length, prevailed;
“and, they brought Augusta with them.---
“Unhappily, her nominal mother was taken
“ill with a fever, and died in the British
“channel.---Her husband, unable to sup-
“port her loss, grew worse daily; and, on
“landing at Falmouth, took to his bed.---
“By his direction, one of his attendants
“wrote to inform me of these melancholy
“events.---Mrs. Gilmore and I hastened
“to him immediately, and found him past
“all hopes of recovery, and totally unfit to
“be removed; though likely to linger some
“time.---We therefore determined to re-
“main with him ’till a change took place.
“---As that was not speedily expected, and
“my spirits were very inadequate to the
“scene in which I was engaged; Mrs. Gil-
“more persuaded me to leave them, for a
“few days, and visit an old acquaintance of
“mine, who lived near Plymouth.---It
“was thither I was going, when the fa-
“tal accident happened to Miss Westby,
“which frustrated my design, and caused
“me to return, without fulfilling my first
“intention.---On getting back to Falmouth,
I found

“ I found my dear George (for so I still
“ called him) very near his end.--- His chief
“ solicitude was for his little girl, whom
“ Mrs. Gilmore and I promised to take
“ under our protection.--- He was satisfied
“ with that promise, and died in peace;
“ having settled all his wordly affairs, and
“ bequeathed the bulk of his fortune (which
“ was immense), to his charming adopted,
“ the lovely angelic girl, who quitted the
“ room with Mrs. Gilmore.--- You have seen
“ her; and, can judge of her personal per-
“ fections.--- I can assure you, her mental
“ ones far exceed them.--- She is our prin-
“ cipal comfort, and the delight of our
“ hearts.--- To paint her distress on the loss
“ of her nominal parents, would be im-
“ possible:--- suffice it to say, she has feel-
“ ings that do honor to her young heart.---
“ 'Tis with a view to her amusement that
“ we are travelling towards E---r, where
“ we purpose staying a few weeks; and,
“ then returning to London by the way of
“ Bath.”

The Ladies now rejoined them.--- Mr.
Ormond surveyed the youngest with at-
tention, and again thought she resembled
the Westby's.--- The discourse now turn-
ing



ing on other subjects, that idea vanished from his mind.--- They dined and spent the evening together, with tolerable cheerfulness; and, as they were going different roads, took a farewell of each other, on separating for the night.

In the morning, Mr. Ormond rose early; and, was in his carriage before the day dawned:---so impatient was he to complete the generous intention he had resolved on the preceding day, which, for the gratification of my readers curiosity, I will now explain.---It has been observed, that Mrs. Stacey, was the mother of two children, which she had put out to nurse; from whence, she had lately removed them to the house of a friend she had at D----, a town about twenty five miles distant from Ormond Lodge.---She had done this for the advantage of their education, there being some tolerable good schools at D----, which, as day scholars, they could attend upon moderate terms; and, their board and cloathing were rather less expensive to her, than if placed at boarding-schools.---Still, she was not perfectly easy about them, though she kept her uneasiness confined within her own breast; and, endeavored to commit

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them, confidently, to the care of Providence. --- Their welfare was nevertheless of great consequence to her. --- Her son was now nine; her daughter six years old; an age in which they were liable to receive either good or evil impressions. --- She sighed when she thought upon the subject, but said nothing upon it to any one. --- Happily, Mr. Ormond had thought about it too, and therefore determined to have them both at his house, where Mrs. Stacey might herself educate her own daughter with his; and Mr. Williams, he was assured, would, with pleasure, take her son under his care, and instruct him with Henry. --- "This" --- said he --- "will at once remove care and uneasiness from the countenance of the good woman; and release her from any expence for their support." --- Having thus arranged the affair, in his own mind, he gave orders to be drove round to D-----, in his way home. When there, he put up at an inn, ordered a dinner, and, while it was preparing, walked to the house of Mrs. Stacey's friend. --- The children (who had seen him often) were rejoiced at seeing him and quite enraptured to hear they were going to live at Ormond Lodge, with their mamma. ---

Their

Their dress was quickly changed:---after which, Mr. Ormond took them with him to the inn; and, when dinner was over, they all set out together.---Being fond of the company of children, he was truly delighted with their artless, innocent prattle, which so agreeably beguiled the time, that he was surprized when he found himself at the Lodge.---Mrs. Ormond was alone.---She received *him* in her accustomed manner; and, the children with the same stately air of indifference, with which she usually met her own.---Mr. Ormond then told her his design.---She was extremely mortified, and could scarce conceal her chagrin.---She was beginning to attempt turning him from his purpose, by a gentle remonstrance:---but, presently found, she must not touch that string:---its vibration would be too discordant.---She therefore reluctantly condescended to acquiesce in silence.---Mr. Ormond then led the children to the house-keeper's apartment, and left them under her care; with orders to let no one know they were in the house, not even their mother, 'till he sent for them.---Returning to Mrs. Ormond, he rung the bell, and ordered

dered a servant to let Mr. Williams know he requested the favor of speaking with him. --- The welcome summons was immediately obeyed. --- After the usual ceremonies had passed, and Mr. Williams was seated, Mr. Ormond said,

“ My dear Sir, I have been taking a liberty with you ” ---

“ Not an *improper* one, I am certain ” --- interrupted Mr. Williams --- “ you are incapable of that. --- But pray, Sir, what is it you call so ? ”

“ Why, without consulting either you or Mrs. Stacey upon the business, I have brought home with me an additional pupil for each of you ; and this I call taking a *liberty*. ”

“ I’m glad to hear it ! ” --- cried Mr. Williams --- “ ’tis a liberty which needs no apology. --- But pray where is he ? --- may I not see him ? ”

“ Without doubt ! ” --- replied Mr. Ormond. --- “ But first, let me tell you, that, as I am going to give you additional trouble, I think I ought to make you an adequate compensation ; therefore, say now what addition I must make to your present income ? ”

"come?"---Mrs. Ormond bit her lip with vexation.---Mr. Williams started up from his chair,---

"*Additional trouble!---adequate compensation!*"---he replied.---"Pardon my request of your words;---but, indeed, my honored friend, I cannot comprehend you.---Sure you cannot suppose me so mercenary, as to entertain a wish for any thing beyond what I enjoy from your generosity!"

"Believe me, my dear Williams"---resumed Mr. Ormond---"I had no intention to wound your feelings; I merely spoke as justice dictated to me:---and, allow me to add, that you must have an augmentation."

"*Never* will I accept it, Sir"---returned Mr. Williams, firmly---"on such an occasion!---What! would you give me pleasure, and pay me for receiving it?---But"---continued he, looking at his watch---"I must take my leave for the present:---this is the time I promised to wait on Mrs. Stacey, with some new landscapes, for Miss Ormond to copy;" and bowing gracefully, was retiring, when Mr. Ormond prevented him, by calling out,

"Stop! stop a moment!--I thought you wished to see your young pupil!"

"O! I had forgot that!"---cried he, returning.---"Pray, Sir, where have you concealed him?"---Mr. Ormond smiled.---"Can you keep a secret, Williams?"---said he---

"If you'll entrust me with one"---returned Mr. Williams, laughing---"I'll try to guard it safely."

Enough!--said Mr. Ormond---and ringing the bell, ordered the housekeeper to send what he had deposited in her apartment.---The two little Staceys' entered.

"Ha! what my old acquaintance!"---cried Williams, catching them up in his arms---"so you are to be *my* boy now, Frank?"

"And Mr. Ormond's too"---replied Frank.

"You are going to Mrs. Stacey, Williams"---said Mr. Ormond;---"say nothing to her, who are in the house; but be so good as to tell her, Mrs. Ormond requests the favor of her company to tea, in the little drawing-room."

"Certainly"---replied he;---then added---"I perceive you mean to surprize her; but

“but, indeed, my good Sir, I rather think
 • you will be disappointed of your expecta-
 “tion.---A benevolent action from an Or-
 “mond, has nothing *surprizing* in it.”

“It is almost tea time, Williams”---
 said Mr. Ormond;---“do go and execute
 “your commission.”---Mr. Williams de-
 parted.---Mrs. Stacey soon entered; and,
 after expressing her pleasure at Mr. Or-
 mond’s return, and making friendly enqui-
 ries about his health, she asked after Mr.
 and Mrs. Westby, with an earnestness that
 discovered how deeply she had felt for them.
 ---Her enquiries satisfied, Mr. Ormond ad-
 dressed her thus: ---

“Mrs. Ormond and I requested your
 “company, Madam, to desire you will fa-
 “vor us so far, as to take another little
 “one under your care, and educate her in
 “the same way as you do ours. ---Her mo-
 “ther is a widow, whose fortune by no
 “means equals her deserts. ---The regard
 “we feel for her, has induced us to take
 “both her children, a girl and a boy, and
 “give them in charge to you and Mr.
 “Williams, to do as each of you think
 “proper with them. ---I have only one sti-
 “pulation to make, which is, that there

“be no difference made between them and
 “ours:---they must be all on an equality;
 “no superiority amongst them, but that
 “which real merit gives.”

“Such generosity”---said Mrs. Stacey
 ---“charms, but not surprizes me, Sir.---
 “Your pleasure shall be observed.---I feel
 “so strongly interested for the unfortunate
 “parent, that the child is secure of my best
 “services.”

“Then now they shall both be intro-
 “duced to you”---said Mr. Ormond.---
 They were ordered in; and he presented
 them to her.---She started suddenly from
 her seat clasped them rapturously to her
 bosom, and exclaiming, “My darlings join
 “with me to thank -----.”---She dropt on
 her knee, at the feet of Mr. and Mrs. Or-
 mond, and burst into tears. The most elo-
 quent language would not have expressed
 joy and gratitude half so forcibly.---Mrs.
 Stacey was an elegant figure; and, in that
 attitude, appeared so interestingly lovely,
 that a painter or statuary would have wished
 to detain her in it, to copy from. Nay,
 such power had her appearance over the
 mind of the unfeeling Mrs. Ormond, that
 she, no more than Mr. Ormond, could re-
 sist

sist extending one hand to raise her. The violence of her emotions, took from her the power of utterance for some time; and, Mr. Ormond regretted his little frolic of taking her by surprize. He openly condemned his folly, and apologized for it.

"My amiable, my excellent friends"--- said she--- "the agitation, the tears you have witnessed, are only the effect of this overflow of happiness you have bestowed upon me. My heart thanks you for the gift. Would to heaven I could find language to express my gratitude; but, I *cannot*; and therefore, must leave my future conduct to evince it for me."

"If you please"---said Mr. Ormond--- "we will drop the subject, and send these two little folks up into the nursery, to join their companions."

Little Frank and Matilda Stacey were then dismissed. Their mother soon recovered her composure. Mrs. Ormond assumed the appearance of good-humor and satisfaction; and Mr. Ormond, well pleased at having been the medium of happiness to another, found his reward in the reflection.

When Mrs. Stacey had retired to her apartment, she revolved in her mind the

occurrences of the evening; and, led, by some expressions of Mr. Ormond, to suppose his lady had shared equally with him in performing the benevolent act. --- She could not avoid condemning herself for having (*though only in thought*) censured her for meanness. --- "I clearly see" --- said she, mentally --- "that I have been wrong: --- I am ignorant of the extent of Mr. Ormond's fortune; and his unbounded liberality has deceived me into an idea, that it is much larger than perhaps it is. --- While Mrs. Ormond, under no such deception, perceives, without a doubt, a propriety in observing, as her family increases, a greater degree of frugality in the domestic department, to enable her still to enjoy, with prudence, the delight arising from the gratification of benevolent inclinations. This must certainly be her motive; and, her conduct merits imitation and applause, not hasty censure. Henceforth then, my noble-minded friend, I will avoid condemning any part of your conduct, merely from not comprehending your motive; and I will silently and secretly assist you, in every economical pursuit." Thus reasoned the happy, the grateful

grateful Mrs. Stacey. We can only lament, that Mrs. Ormond had not that claim upon her gratitude, which she imagined; but was, on the contrary, miserable, at the event which caused it. She passed the night restless and uneasy, vainly torturing her imagination, to form some plausible pretext, for disencumbering herself from what she only considered an additional burden. None, however, offered, that was by any means likely to satisfy *Mr. Ormond*, or have the effect she wished; and, she was obliged to relinquish the idea.---She dreaded giving a real offence to *Mr. Ormond*, lest it should be a lasting one, and prevent his leaving his fortune in her power at his decease. The thirty thousand pounds settled upon her, was now become so trivial a sum, in her estimation, that she could scarce bear to think of it as her only resource. Alas! how powerful a tyrant is Avarice, over the minds of those under his dominion:---his sway over that of *Mrs. Ormond*, extended daily. Had it indeed, proceeded from maternal anxiety for the welfare of her children, some degree of allowance might, perhaps, be made for it; but, in conformity to truth, we are

H 6

obliged

obliged to confess, that it proceeded not from any thing of the kind:---she considered her own interest, and that of her offspring, as distinct from each other as possible; and, only regarded them as so many bars in her way to wealth. The birth of another daughter, which happened the beginning of May following, afforded her no other joy, than that which she felt for her own safety. But the increase of felicity it brought to Mr. Ormond, was beyond description. He received it with gratitude, as a blessing sent from Providence, to compensate his former losses. When a month had expired, he proposed fixing a day to entertain his friends, to celebrate the joyful occurrence. Mrs. Ormond thought of the expence, and was beginning to raise some objections, on the ground of her spirits being too weak to bear being surrounded with a large company.

“What! Harriet! would you *now* relinquish”---cried he---“a custom we have constantly observed on the birth of every child we have had?---no! no! it must not be, indeed, my love. This last is to me as welcome as the first, and I must demonstrate it, Abraham made a great
“feast

“ feast on the birth of his son Isaac: doubt-
 “ less he intended it as a sacrifice of praise
 “ and thanksgiving. --- Under the same idea,
 “ I have hitherto followed his example; and,
 “ it is to me a sort of religious ceremony,
 “ which I cannot renounce.”

This silenced the lady, and she submitted once more to his inclination. A grand dinner was prepared; all their acquaintance invited; the tenants entertained in the great hall, as on former similar occasions; and, the poor neighbours, of all descriptions, feasted for the space of three days.





CHAPTER XV.

"Great acts alone superior merit prove,
"And vindicate the bounteous pow'rs above."

POPE'S HOMER.

THE grand entertainments at Ormond Lodge, had been over about a week, when a letter arrived from Mr. Westby, informing Mr. Ormond, that, in consequence of another promotion, he was just setting out for London, to attend the Board of Admiralty. Mrs. Westby was going with him, and it was their intention to see him and Mrs. Ormond in their way back. ---The next post brought another from Mr. Hanmore, saying, that he and Mrs. Hanmore, were coming over to pass a week or two at the Lodge, by way of congratulatory visit. ---These visits were almost a death-stroke to the happiness of the lady of the mansion:

mansion:---she testified no satisfaction at the prospect; but would gladly have dispensed with the ceremony of their gratulations, to have avoided the breach which their presence would make in her saving system. Such thoughts never once entered the mind of Mr. Ormond, he loved to see his friends around him; and, to add to their happiness, was his principal delight. That Hanmore and Westby, should thus unexpectedly meet at his house, he regarded as a very fortunate occurrence, since it would tend to make the visit infinitely more agreeable to each of them.--- Mrs. Ormond, not liking to listen to him on the subject, formed an excuse to retire to her dressing-room, where she vented her vexation in pathetic soliloquy,

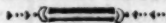
“How tormenting is all this!”---cried she---“surely I am doomed to be perpetually wretched! and, singularly unfortunate!---one enormous expence is hardly over, before another is brought upon me! --- Here I shall, perhaps, for three or four weeks, be eat up by a parcel of people, that have no right whatever to my property.--- What are the Westby’s or the Hanmore’s to me?---I hate the sight of them all.---
“ Westby

“ Westby has just got promotion too; and,
 “ without doubt, he’ll get very rich in a
 “ little time, as he has buried all his chil-
 “ dren. Then when he dies, his widow
 “ may vie with *me*. I have hardly pati-
 “ ence to think of it. But there’s no break-
 “ ing off the acquaintance, Mr. Ormond is
 “ so infatuated with them.--- And, to add to
 “ my distress, I have not a friend in the
 “ world to whom I can safely impart my
 “ uneasiness, and counsel with what to
 “ do.”

In this manner, did poor Mrs. Ormond afflict herself with *fancied* troubles; --- for providence had cast her lot in life so easy, that she had no *real* ones: --- but, as a celebrated poet observes, “ *those who have none, must make them, or be wretched.*”

The expected visitors came at the appointed time; and, by Mr. Ormond’s directions were entertained during their stay with the utmost hospitality: --- but, the consequence of it, was a severe illness to Mrs. Ormond, brought on by inward uneasiness, and concealed vexation. --- She was delirious at intervals, and then discovered what lay upon her mind. Mr. Ormond was pained to his soul at the discovery; --- but,
 kindly

kindly attributing it to her zeal for the welfare of her offspring, he regarded it rather as an amiable weakness; and, willing to give it all possible indulgence, he determined---not to restrain the natural liberality of his disposition;---but, to be in future more guarded in his displays of it. In short, he resolved, that every act of generosity or benevolence he chose to practice, should be done *secretly*, to prevent her peace being unnecessarily disturbed.---This resolution he stedfastly adhered to for several years; never deviating from it, but in such cases, as admitted of no other alternative, than that of omitting an act of kindness, or letting her know of it, and share the merit with him. A circumstance of this nature occurred soon after his son had entered his eighteenth year. His tutor, Mr. Williams, being presented by Lord Thornby, to a small living in Northamptonshire, was upon the point of leaving them to reside upon it. Mr. Ormond, fully sensible of the advantage Henry had received from his instruction, could not be satisfied to let him depart, without some more solid token of his esteem and gratitude, than could be conveyed, in the bare payment



payment of what was due to him.---He deliberated upon the matter; settled the plan in his own mind; made the necessary preparation; and, when every thing was completed, he one morning, after breakfast, addressed his lady as follows:

“The time draws very nigh, my love,
 “when we must lose our beloved and amiable friend Williams---What must we
 “do, my Harriet, to prove to him our
 “regard, and our gratitude, for making
 “Henry what he is? he must not be suffered to leave us, without some substantial token of -----”

“Why Mr. Ormond”---said she, eagerly interrupting him, ---you have always *paid*
 “him well for what he did; and, I think
 “that is quite enough.”

“No Harriet,”---interrupting in his turn,
 ---“that is not enough from a man of *my*
 “*fortune*, to a man of *his merit*; and, I
 “cannot satisfy my own mind, without
 “rewarding him liberally.”

“Well,”---cried the lady, pettishly.---
 “I think its quite sufficient to pay people
 “what is due to them, without giving them
 “more than they ask:---however, I see
 “you are set upon it, so e’en do what you
 “will;

“will; its of little consequence to me.”
 ---Mr. Ormond, passing over the ungracious manner with which she yielded her consent, immediately replied,

“I cordially thank you, Harriet, for so readily concurring with my wishes; and, will now proceed to tell you, that I design presenting Mr. Williams with this bond, which conveys to him one hundred a year for life, chargeable on the Somersetshire estate; and, ----”

“You are mighty *generous*, indeed,” interrupted Mrs. Ormond sneeringly.

“Call it *justice*, my love, not *generosity*,” ---resumed he--- “and, then you give it its proper appellation.---The same degree of justice too,”---he continued,---“is due to Mrs. Stacey, on a similar account; therefore, this bond, to the same purport as the other, *you* must present to her.” Mrs. Ormond’s patience was now quite exhausted, and she rudely exclaimed,

“Sure Mr. Ormond you are mad! --- a hundred a year to Mrs. Stacey! --- for what I wonder? --- are we not doing great things for her every day we live? --- we have brought up her two children, and placed the boy apprentice to an Attorney, where

“where he is likely to do very well; certainly,”---added she, collecting herself, and softening her voice and manner a little, --- “certainly, all this is enough. --- Do be persuaded, Ormond, to drop your design. A little reflection will shew you, that doing any thing more for Mrs. Stacey, is perfectly unnecessary.”

“My dear Harriet,”---returned Mr. Ormond, with a determined air and firm accent:--- “give me leave to assure you, I had well considered this matter before I mentioned it to you; and, that consideration has clearly convinced me, it is by no means unnecessary. There is a degree of *respect*, which, every person, exalted by rank or by fortune, owe to themselves:---and, we do no more than pay that debt, when we act with propriety. Mrs. Stacey has been with us many years:--- her best days have been devoted to the service of our daughters:---who, that knows Catherine and Margaretta, but will render her a tribute of praise, for the cultivation she has bestowed on their minds and manners. Yet, should any circumstance arise to displace her, without a proper provision, the generality of
“the

“ the world would now think her years
: “ disqualified her from pursuing the arduous
“ avocation she has been engaged in here ;
“ and, she would in consequence be thrown
“ helpless and destitute upon an unfeeling
“ world. These thoughts, my Harriet,
“ have *irrevocably* fixed my determination
“ to make this provision for her without
“ delay ; and, I trust, my arguments upon
“ the subject, have altered your opinion, and
“ removed those slight objections, which,
“ I am convinced, you would not have
“ made, had you considered the matter as
“ deeply before. If you do not like to
“ take the trouble of delivering the bond
“ yourself, permit me to do it in your
“ name ; --- though I would rather” --- ad-
ded he, after a short pause --- “ that it were
“ otherwise. My Harriet knows not how
“ much she would oblige me, by taking it
“ upon herself.”

An opportunity for conferring an acknowledged obligation upon Mr. Ormond, did not often occur. Mrs. Ormond's selfish mind, instantly conceived a design of turning this event to her own future interest : --- and, seeing that any farther objections would avail not, she confessed herself convinced by
his

his reasoning, and ready to acquiesce in obliging him. He again thanked her with good-humor; and, a message being sent to Mrs. Stacey, requesting her presence, he left the ladies together, and went to the apartment of Mr. Williams.





CHAPTER XVI.

"Who dares think one thing, and another tell,

"My heart detests him as the gates of hell."

POPE'S HOMER.

MR. Williams, before his departure, had strongly recommended it to Mr. Ormond, to send his son to complete his education at one of the universities.--- "A few years spent there"---said he---"if properly improved, will qualify him for an useful member of the British senate.--- He is heir to a princely fortune; but, since heaven has distinguished him by the gift of excellent talents, he must not lead an idle life. His country has a claim upon him.--- It would be criminal in him to bury the talents he possesses in the obscurities of Ormond Lodge."

Mr. Ormond was pleased with the idea,
and

and determined to adopt the advice immediately; therefore, took an early opportunity to make it a subject of conversation with his lady.---Mrs. Ormond was far from being averse to the proposal:---she had lately begun to dread Henry as a rival in the affections of Mr. Ormond; and, was therefore rather pleased to be rid of him, for a few years:---and, the greater the distance, the more agreeable to her. She therefore ventured to propose sending him to Edinburgh.---“It is”---said she---“much the best place for youth, upon all accounts:---it is attended with much less expence than the universities of Oxford or Cambridge; and, his morals will not be in such danger of injury.”

“I have no other objection to Edinburgh”---said Mr. Ormond---“than the distance, Harriet; which is *very* great from hence.”

“Pho!”---cried she, airily---“what signifies the distance;---’tis a mere bagatelle. He is not going for ever, you know:---the time allotted for his stay, will pass round very swiftly:---it will be little more than go and come, and he’s home again.”

“If

"If *you* are such an heroine, my dear Harriet"---said Mr. Ormond---"as to send your only son, so far from you, for his advantage, without reluctance, I ought certainly to be ashamed of expressing any; therefore, it is settled at once; and, to Edinburgh he goes."

"And when there"---resumed Mrs. Ormond---"I hope you intend him to qualify himself for taking up a profession?"

A *profession!* Harriet!"---returned Mr. Ormond, with evident marks of surprize in his countenance. ---

"Yes, a *profession*;"---said she---"but do not misunderstand me, my Ormond; I mean not to infer, that he will ever have occasion to practise it; though, if he should, things as extraordinary as that happen every day.---My meaning, however, is this, I wish him to be kept out of harm's way, and his leisure hours properly filled up:---and, as knowledge is no burden, suppose he makes physic or surgery his principal study?---I consider, that when a young man is studying any particular science, if he enters heartily into it, it engages not only his time, but his thoughts; keeps him out of impro-

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"per



“per company, and prevents his forming
 “ridiculous, often dangerous attachments
 “amongst our sex.”-----Mr. Ormond’s
 thoughts reverted immediately to the im-
 proper connection he had himself been very
 near forming, in the days of his youth.---
 He wished to preserve his son from the dan-
 ger; and he thought, at that moment, Wis-
 dom herself spoke through the lips of Mrs.
 Ormond.---All she uttered, he regarded as
 the dictates of maternal tenderness, directed
 by good sense; and consequently made no
 opposition. After a silence of a few mi-
 nutes, he replied,

“I don’t know but you are right, my
 “love:---if Henry has no objection to it,
 “I shall have none.”

“*Henry* object to it!”---repeated Mrs.
 Ormond---“why sure you do not mean,
 “Mr. Ormond, to sink the dignity of your
 “own character so low, as to consult him
 “upon it!---consult the inclinations of a
 “boy, indeed!---that would be a pretty
 “jest, really!---No! no!”---continued she
 “---“pray let that alone.---All you have
 “to do, is, to exert a proper authority,
 “and lay your commands upon him; or
 “depute *me*, to save you the trouble. And
 then

"then see if he'll dare to dispute the point!"

Mr. Ormond yielded to the latter, and Henry was presently informed by his mother, where, and to what he was destined.--- His astonishment was almost unequalled; but, he forbore to express it, and submitted in silence. In a few days every thing was ready for his departure; and he quitted the Lodge with his father, who accompanied him to London; detained him there for a fortnight's amusement; and, then took a painful, a reluctant farewell of his darling son: whose grief, at the separation, was not less than his own. Sad was the heart of Mr. Ormond, during his solitary journey homewards:--- he had been accustomed to enjoy much of the company of Henry, unknown to Mrs. Ormond; and, had found in his conversation, a pleasure which nothing could compensate the loss of.--- He almost regretted having suffered him to go to Edinburgh.--- Had he gone to Oxford, they could have met often.--- This reflection was almost insupportable.--- The idea that he was gone to study a professional science, was not calculated to give relief to

the mind of the fond father. --- His views for his son were ambitious: --- he thought this circumstance too degrading; nor could a perfect recollection of all the arguments Mrs. Ormond had urged in favor of it, reconcile him to the scheme. --- In spite of his better reason, some unhappy presages of he knew not what, hung upon his mind, and diffused a melancholy sadness over his countenance, 'till he reached home; where he found Mrs. Ormond, *tout au contraire*. --- She had got rid of a rival; and, was in consequence, all *gaiete de coeur*. --- He had expected to find her spirits as much depressed as his own. --- That they were not so, he placed to the account of a sound judgment, and an understanding superior to that of most other women. More than ever pleased with her, he repeatedly clasped her to his bosom, and applauded her heroism. --- At length he said,

“After all, my Harriet, I fear we shall not easily support the loss of our darling boy.”

“Never fear, my Ormond” --- she replied --- “there’s your four *darling* girls to console you.”

“Very

“ Very true, my love” --- returned he ---
 “ and you’ll oblige me much, by sending
 “ to desire their company here.”

His request was complied with: --- Mrs. Ormond being then in a humor to oblige, though determined to make a merit of it hereafter. Lady Thornby, with her daughter Lady Jane Hermon, came to tea; and, at the request of the former, the two eldest Miss Ormonds’, Catherine and Margaretta, were, for the first time, permitted to be of the company. The lively, engaging Lady Jane, delighted at heart, that her two dearest friends appeared to be beginning to grow into consequence, soon took occasion to lead a conversation, in which, she well knew, they could both shine. --- Lady Thornby perceived her design, and encouraged Catherine and Margaretta to take part in the discourse. --- They looked at their mother; her countenance had nothing forbidding in it: --- they ventured to join: --- and, while the vermillion of modesty covered their cheeks, they displayed powers that surprized and charmed their father and her ladyship. Early in the evening, Lord Thornby, and the young Lord Hermon, joined the company. The latter had been

about three months returned from the West-Indies.---He was made a lieutenant, and appointed to a frigate, on the Gibraltar station. His Lordship was to depart in a few days ; and, as the period approached, a cloud overshadowed his manly brow, which he vainly strove to hide. It proceeded not from any dislike to the service in which he was engaged ; but, from that reluctance which human nature feels at parting with the object dearest to the heart. The childish regard which had formerly subsisted between him and Catherine Ormond, was now ripened into a solid and lasting affection, on both sides ; and, the idea of separation was mutually distressing. Their attachment was observ'd by the parents, with mutual satisfaction.--- They often talked with pleasure of uniting the two families :---but, the youth of the parties, determined them to conceal their views, for a while, and appear not to notice their regard for each other, 'till after Lord Hermon returned from Gibraltar ; which was not expected within three or four years.---But, in this expectation they were deceived ; his Lordship being sent over hither with dispatches to government, in the spring following ; when, having

having obtained leave of absence for a few months, he hastened into Somersetshire on the wings of love,



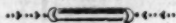


CHAPTER XVII.

— "Tis wond'rous strange,
" How things, or names of things, do change.
" Good-breeding, which was meant to please,
" Will scarcely now let folks have ease."

MY readers will doubtless remember that Mr. Ormond possessed an estate near Newcastle. --- He and his lady had been in the habit of visiting it once in two or three years, and passing a few of the summer months there. --- Its vicinity to Edinburgh now occurred to the recollection of Mr. Ormond; and, he determined on going thither, that he might enjoy, for a time, the pleasure of his son's company. He proposed it to Mrs. Ormond, who readily assented, from the consideration that they lived at much less expence there, having no acquaintances in that part, and living quite retired. It was settled

tled, that the young ladies and their governess were to accompany them, for the first time; and, Mr. Ormond, ignorant of his lady's intention, of making this excursion on a plan of economy; had nearly frustrated her views, by an invitation to Lord and Lady Thornby, with their son and daughter, to be of the party. The friendly invitation was readily accepted; but, on the third day after it was given, Lord Thornby had so severe an attack of the gout in his feet and hands, that he and his lady were under an absolute necessity of disengaging themselves; nor would they be prevailed upon to part with Lady Jane and Lord Hermon, on any other condition, than that of Mrs. Ormond agreeing to leave with them, in exchange, Mrs. Stacey, with Margaretta and Harriet Ormond. --- This arrangement could not fail of being highly pleasing to Mrs. Ormond, nor was it less so to every one concerned. --- On the day appointed, the two parties bid adieu to the Lodge; and, to each other. The travellers, after a delightful journey of a few days, reached Fountain Abbey, the seat of Mr. Ormond, in high health and spirits.



---Every thing was new to the young ladies ; and, of course, charming : ---added to this, their own happy dispositions, assisted them to extract something delightful from every occurrence. Lord Hermon had a fund of humor, which rendered him a very entertaining companion, particularly to Mr. Ormond, who entered into all the innocent amusements of youth with avidity. He enjoyed the little humorous tricks of Lord Hermon, and often took part in them, as they never tended to any thing conducive to the injury of any one. An opportunity, for the display of his Lordship's humorous talent, offered during his abode at Fountain Abbey, and he could not let it slip. Henry Ormond, by the desire of his father, was at the Abbey to receive them, on their arrival. His stay was limited to ten days, at the expiration of that time, he was obliged to return again to his studies, from which, he could not possibly disengage himself for several weeks. The morning after his departure, Mr. Ormond appeared somewhat dejected ; Lord Hermon exerted his vivacity to raise his spirits, but without effect : and, he was puzzling himself
to

to find out what to have recourse to next, when, Mr. Ormond was informed, that farmer Nelstrop, was come to pay his respects, and hoped for the favor of seeing his honor. The ladies had retired to dress, and only Lord Hermon was with him. He ordered the farmer to be shewn in, shook him heartily by the hand, and enquired after his family and his affairs.

“ Bless your honor! ” --- cried the farmer. --- “ I is *reert* glad to zee ye! --- ye “ looks queet another mon than ye did “ when your honor were her dree years “ agon. I little expected then ever to “ see your pleasan feace agin. It *allus* “ does me good to see it; and, bad as it “ look’d then, it did me a power a good; “ he! he! he! --- I ha throve ever sin. --- “ Eh! I know not what would ha becomed “ o’ me and my bairns; if so be as your “ honor hadn’t put in your word. --- As “ sure as eggs are eggs, Mr. Steward “ would ha let th’ farm to yond mon, “ i’stead o’ me, tho’ he had farm big enow “ afore; and, I should n’t ha ben able to “ ha gotten another, nor had ony prospect “ of ever getting to reets again. Eh! “ your honor, that fire was a heavy loss

“to me.” Nelstrop had been an opulent and respectable farmer for several years, previous to his becoming a tenant of Mr. Ormond’s, but a storm of lightening had set fire to his granary, from thence communicated to his dwelling, his stables, hay-stacks, &c. and destroyed all his property, both in doors and out, before it could be extinguished. His lease was nearly expired, and a superstitious notion of its being an unlucky spot, prevented his applying for a renewal of it. It happened, that a farm belonging to Mr. Ormond, was just then vacant, by the death of the former tenant; and Nelstrop made application: but, not having it in his power to offer a sufficient bribe to the Steward, would not have obtained it, if Mr. Ormond, who had accidentally heard of his misfortune, had not interfered, and settled the matter in his favor: for which, the honest farmer thought he could never be sufficiently grateful. Mr. Ormond was pleased with his conduct, and insisted on his staying to dine; adding, “that he need not fear meeting strangers, for he should have no other company than his own family.” The farmer thanked him, and accepted

cepted the invitation.---He now looked about him, noticed one thing, then another, with great admiration: and observed, that the abbey was "the finest place he had ever been in; and, he should like to see over it, if so be as his honor would give leave."

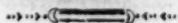
"That you shall, with pleasure"---cried Mr. Ormond---"I'll order a servant to take you through the apartments, while dinner is getting ready."---Up started Lord Hermon, instantly---

"Give me leave, Sir"---said he---"I'll *convoy* the good farmer."

"Ay! do, Frederick"---said Mr. Ormond---"it will amuse you in the absence of the ladies:---you do not seem to know well what to do with yourself."---They sallied from room to room; the farmer, in uncouth terms, expressing his admiration and amazement at all he saw, and asking his young conductor numberless questions; all of which were answered with great gravity.---The abbey was a venerable old gothic building; and, the furniture, though very rich, and once, no doubt, deemed elegant, was somewhat in the antideluvian stile. Mr. Ormond had
purchased

purchased it as it stood; and, thinking it better suited to the place, than any more modern, had never thought fit to remove it.---The hall in which he and his family usually dined, was hung round with trophies of war; and, over the chimney-piece, in the form of a star, were hung various pieces of armoury.---When the farmer entered this apartment, he was more struck with it, than with all he had seen before. He enquired particularly what those things over the fire-place were? and, was told by Lord Hermon, they were weapons of war. He then asked what use the squire had for them?

“ O! very great use!”---replied his Lordship, with the profoundest gravity. ---“ You are a stranger to the customs
 “ of this house, I perceive, Mr. Nelstrop;
 “ and, as I have taken a sort of liking to
 “ you, because I believe you to be an honest,
 “ good kind of man, I’ll let you into
 “ a secret, that may, perhaps, save you
 “ some trouble.---You must know, that
 “ the squire, though well enough in his
 “ way, is but a queer sort of a being,
 “ and has some very odd humors; particularly
 “ where his lady is concerned;
 “ for



“for he doats upon her monstrously.---
 “If any body affronts her, (and she’s
 “very apt to take affront) he resents it
 “directly.”---The farmer listened atten-
 tively; and, Lord Hermon proceeded.---
 “This, Mr. Nelstrop, is the room where
 “we dine: you will dine in it to-day:---
 “a good dinner, consisting of a great
 “variety of dishes, will be brought upon
 “table:---the squire’s lady will make you
 “welcome, and ask you to eat of every
 “dish; and, to shew her *good-breeding*,
 “she will (before you have ate three
 “mouthsful) be teasing you to let her
 “help you to more; and, as long as
 “she asks you, so long *you* must keep
 “eating; for, the first moment you re-
 “fuse any thing she offers, the squire
 “will look upon it as an affront to *her*,
 “and resent it, by insisting upon your
 “fighting with him.---This is the way
 “they always do by strangers; and,
 “these arms are placed here for that
 “purpose.---He will take one, and make
 “you take another, and, you *must* fight,
 “whether you like it or no, if you do not
 “eat as much as *she* chooses you *should*.
 “If you are a man of courage, you may
 “do

“O! I is not at all frear’d o’ that,
“young gentleman”---cried the farmer
---“the squire and me’ll not quarrel this
“bout, I warrant me---he! he! he!---
“but it’s a very comical custom”---con-
tinued he---“for all that; however, if
“eating will please ’em, I believe, upon
“trial, I *can* eat as much as most men;
“for I have a very good stomach, with
“the blessing of God. ---Tho’ to be sure,
“I eat but moderately; for, I *allus* think
“moderation best in all things.”

“ Well ! well ! farmer ” --- resumed Lord Hermon --- “ if you have got a very good “ appetite, you may, perhaps, hold out ; “ and then you’ll manage without fight- “ ing. But, I own, I rather fear for “ you. However, if you will, we’ll now “ go and stroll about the gardens, ’till “ dinner is ready ; the air will make your “ appetite still keener.

To this the farmer assented; and, they staid out 'till summoned by the dinner bell. They found every thing ready at their return; and, the whole company presently

sently seated themselves at the table. As Nelstrop was not deemed of sufficient consequence for his visit to cause any alteration or addition to the bill of fare, Mrs. Ormond was not displeased at his presence. --- She sent him a plate, plentifully filled from the dish before her; of which he was eating heartily and quietly, when she interrupted him, by observing he did not eat; was fearful he did not like it. --- The farmer, in return, assured her he liked it very much. --- His plate was not half emptied; but, she desired to help him again. --- He assented, received a fresh quantity, which he devoured with all expedition. --- She ordered his plate to be changed, and helped him again from another dish. --- He soon cleared away that, and dismissed his plate. She solicited him to eat of something else: he accepted the offer, and they went on thus 'till he had eat immoderately of almost every thing that appeared on the table. *She*, willing to avoid the odium of meanness, and *be* not daring to refuse. The devastation made by the poor simple farmer, excited the utmost astonishment in the minds of all present, except Lord Hermon,

mon, who secretly enjoyed the joke. At length, Mrs. Ormond requesting to help him again, Nelstrop started wildly from his seat, ran to the fire-place, and, laying hold of one of the weapons, exclaimed,

“I cannot eat no more for nobody; so,
 “if I *must* fight, I *must* fight. --- You see
 “squire, I understand your tricks. I
 “know weel enough what you’d be at;
 “so lay hold o’ your *cudgel*, or what ye
 “call it, and ye and me’ll have a fair
 “battle: for I won’t eat no more, at
 “this time, *by jingo*. --- I is omost bristen
 “already.”

The ladies were rather frightened at his violence, from an idea of its proceeding from a sudden fit of insanity; but, Mr. Ormond, who, in a moment, saw deeper into it, was unmoved by any thing but laughter, which he could with difficulty suppress. He however rose from his seat, went up to the farmer, and taking him gently by the arm, said,

“My honest friend, I am not in the
 “least offended by your rashness, because
 “I clearly perceive that your understand-
 “ing has, by some means, been strangely
 “imposed upon. --- That demure looking
 “young

“ young rogue, at the table, is, I am sure,
 “ at the bottom of all this: Rest assured,
 “ I have no inclination for fighting, there-
 “ fore, lay down *your cudgel*, return to
 “ your place, and drink a glass of wine
 “ to recruit your spirits.”

Nelstrop cast a look upon Lord Hermon, who, unable any longer to contain, burst out into a loud laugh; in which, all present joined, not even excepting the farmer; who, being a remarkably good-tempered man, and fond of a joke himself, enjoyed this as much as they did; and, allowed it to be the best he had ever met with.





CHAPTER XVIII.

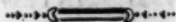
"Bright and lasting bliss below
"Is all an airy dream;
"Only the joys celestial flow
"In an immortal stream."

WATTS.

IT was near nine weeks before Henry Ormond came again to Fountain Abbey.--- His stay was short; yet, his mother expressed her disapprobation at his absence from his studies; and, it was in consequence, determined he should quit them again 'till the Christmas vacation.---- That Mr. Ormond might then have the pleasure of his company, it was settled, that the family should remain at the Abbey, 'till that convivial season was over. Lord Hermon left them early in the autumn, having extended his stay to the utmost. With him, mirth seemed to have taken her flight from the house; the whole party were
out

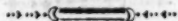
out of spirits for several days, 'till they recollected, that the time was not far distant when their beloved Henry was expected to cheer them by his presence. On the Christmas-eve, the lovely youth (for such was Henry Ormond) rejoined them, and mirth and hilarity again reigned throughout the Abbey. Mrs. Ormond, indeed, was a sort of non-entity amongst them, sharing neither in their pleasures, nor their pains: always thinking herself extremely indulgent when she thwarted not their innocent inclinations.---A fortnight had elapsed, when an express arrived, with a letter from Mrs. Stacey, written by Lady Thornby's desire, to inform Mr. and Mrs Ormond, that Lord Thornby lay extremely ill, and the physicians were apprehensive of great danger. It was her Ladyship's request they would acquaint Lady Jane with the circumstance; and, as his lordship earnestly wished to see her, together with his dear friend Mr. Ormond, her ladyship flattered herself with the hope, that they would make it convenient to return immediately. This letter threw them all into the utmost distress. Lady Jane was in agonies too great to be described. On such an occasion Mrs. Ormond

mond could make no objection to commence the journey immediately. The women servants were ordered to pack up every thing, and to set out the next day, with the little Eliza, and travel at their leisure; and, Henry had directions to proceed at the same time to Edinburgh. These matters adjusted, Mr. Ormond ordered post-horses to be put to his coach, into which himself, his lady, his daughter Catherine, and Lady Jane entered, and were driven away with the rapidity of a whirlwind. In this manner they proceeded through the whole journey; only alighting now and then to take a slight repast, while the horses were changing. The ladies, having youth on their side, were not injured either by cold or fatigue; but, Mr. Ormond severely experienced the ill effects of both upon his constitution, though he made no complaint whatever all the way. When they reached Park-Hill Place, (which they did long before they were expected) he was quite exhausted and over come. --- Mrs. Ormond laughed at him. The laugh was unseasonable: and those present thought it *inhuman*. Lady Thornby would not permit him to see her Lord that night; but, ordering a bed to be prepared she



she hurried him to it. --- Mrs. Ormond, having a strong antipathy to an house of mourning, made her apologies, and insisted on going home to Ormond Lodge. Mrs. Stacey, with Margaretta and Harriet, accompanied her; but Catherine, at her Ladyship's request, was permitted to stay 'till the next day : when, if Mr. Ormond was well enough to leave them, she and Matilda Stacey were to go home with him.

In the morning, Mr. Ormond declared himself much better ; but, his looks contradicted his declaration so forcibly, that, her Ladyship would have persuaded him to give up all thoughts of going to the Lodge that day, and return to his bed, 'till his strength was a little more recovered. This kind offer he begged leave to decline. On his expressing a wish to see Lord Thornby, her Ladyship conducted him to the chamber, where he had the satisfaction to find his Lordship much better than he expected. Some favorable symptoms had appeared the day before, and the physicians began to entertain hopes of his recovery. His disorder was the gout, which would not be confined to the extremities. Mr. Ormond staid with him about two hours, and then took
leave;



leave; but, not without promising to visit him daily, 'till he was able to go out. Alas! that time never arrived: his Lordship continued much in the same way, sometimes better, sometimes worse, for about the space of three months, when, the gout attacking his stomach, he was speedily taken off, to the inexpressible grief of his lady and children, and sincerely lamented by all who had enjoyed the happiness of his acquaintance. Mr. Ormond was greatly affected by the loss of his old friend; the afflicting event seized upon his spirits, and fixed a dejection which proved unconquerable. Added to this, his own constitution seemed to give way. The fatigue he had undergone, and the cold he had caught in his hasty journey from Fountain Abbey, had shook it greatly, and made great inroads on his health, which declined fast. Those who loved him, entertained hopes of a favorable alteration at the return of summer; and, were infinitely disappointed in observing, when it was past, that it had produced no change for the better in him. The following winter, he grew visibly worse; but, kept about through the whole of it, and his friends again derived
hope

K

having greatly revived the spirits of Mr. Ormond.

When they drew near the Abbey, they were met by Henry, who had strolled out into the road, impatiently waiting the arrival of the carriages. The first view of his father, gave such a shock to his affectionate and feeling heart, as took from him the power of articulation:---he, therefore, only slightly noticed those in the first carriage; motioned to the drivers to go forwards, and went on himself to that which contained his sisters, threw open the door, jumped hastily in, and gave vent to his full heart, by a flow of tears. At length, he exclaimed,

“ Oh, Catherine! oh, Margaretta! what
“ a dreadful alteration is there in our re-
“ vered parent!---there is death in his
“ countenance!”

“ Henry,”---cried Catherine, whose fears and sorrow equalled his---“ for heaven’s sake compose yourself; my father is fatigued by travelling:---a night’s rest will
“ produce a great change for the better in
“ his looks:---he is not so bad as you imagine:---but, you must avoid depressing
“ his

“his spirits, by letting him see your’s are
“cast down. --- In *his* presence you *must* be
“cheerful.

“Ah! Catherine!” --- returned he; ---
“you are flattering me with hopes, which
“you do not entertain. But, I am sensible
“of the propriety of your advice, and will
“endeavor to adopt it. --- Yes! my coun-
“tenance and manners shall assume a
“cheerfulness, foreign to my heart!”

They were now arrived at the Abbey. ---
Henry brushed up his looks, and welcomed
his father and family with a cheerful air.
After a little refreshment, Mr. Ormond ap-
peared greatly revived. --- He went to rest
early, slept well, and in the morning Ca-
therine’s prophesy was fulfilled, and the
unhappiness of her brother greatly dispelled.
--- She herself was little flattered by such
appearances, having experienced, that his
disorder was of a very fluctuating nature.
He continued, however, apparently mend-
ing every day; and, in the course of a fort-
night, Henry again departed, to finish his
studies; having only two months longer
to stay at the university, at the expira-
tion of which, he flattered himself with
the hope of finding his father restored to
K 2 health,

health. --- Mr. Westby continued at the Abbey three weeks, and, at his departure, entertained the strongest hopes of Mr. Ormond's recovery; and promised to meet him at Ormond Lodge on his return thither. Alas! vain were these expectations; the Most High saw fit to disappoint them. Poor Mr. Ormond fell ill again in a short time after Mr. Westby had left him; and, in a few days took to his bed, from whence he never arose. --- His disorder was a vital decay. --- Mrs. Stacey was sensible of his quick approaching end, and hinted a wish for Mr. Henry Ormond to be recalled; but Mrs. Ormond, not seeing, or *pretending* not to see such immediate danger, declined sending for her son; alledging, that *his* time was now precious, and he would so soon leave Edinburgh entirely, that it would be folly and weakness in the extreme, to draw him off from his studies unnecessarily. Her daughters she seldom suffered to enter their father's chamber; and, when they did, their stay in it was short, that Mr. Ormond might not be disturbed. --- "She was
" sure quietness was the best means of pro-
" moting his return to health." --- Mrs. Stacey, who tenderly loved the whole family, felt the
the

the utmost concern at the slight put on her young pupils, and their brother; yet, she was willing to fix the most favorable construction on Mrs. Ormond's views; therefore, attributed her conduct to her ardent zeal for the preservation of a beloved husband.

Mr. Ormond had kept his bed about a fortnight, when, one evening, he grew so much worse, as to alarm all the house, except his Lady, who still insisted he would be better shortly: yet would not leave him to the care of others, as usual, but sat with him all night.---Those, most sincerely afflicted, were the three eldest Miss Ormonds', and Mrs. Stacey; who, though not permitted to be in the apartment of the sick, would not go to bed, but sat together weeping; watching every motion in the house, and making perpetual enquiries. Early in the morning, Mrs. Stacey, in compliance with their wishes, and her own inclination, ventured softly to approach the door of the chamber; she tapped gently, and Mrs. Ormond opened it, with a smiling countenance. "You may come in;"---said she---"he is better."

"God be praised!"---exclaimed Mrs.

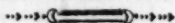
Stacey---“I rejoice to hear it!”---She approached the bed; Mr. Ormond thanked her for her tender solicitude:---then asked if his daughters were yet up?---She replied in the affirmative.---“I should like”---said he---“to see them.---I have something to say to them;---perhaps it may be the last opportunity allowed me.”---Mrs. Stacey hastened away instantly, and presently returned, accompanied by the young ladies. Mr. Ormond was sitting up, supported by a bed-chair. He desired them to draw near; they went to the bed-side, and he tenderly embraced them all: while they found the utmost difficulty to suppress their tears. Matilda Stacey stood behind them; he turned his head, and observing her, put out his hand:---she took it eagerly, and, dropping on her knee, raised it to her lips, and bedewed it with her tears; while, in faltering accents, she said,

“My father!---my *more* than father!”

“Matilda”---said Mr. Ormond---“weep not; but, when I am become a clod of the valley, let me live in your remembrance. Give my love to your brother:---he and you will hereafter find yourselves remembered by me. Farewell,
“my

"my good girl".---He was then beginning to address his daughters; but was immediately interrupted by Mrs. Ormond.

"Come, come, I must have no more of this"---cried she---"my dear Ormond; by giving way to all this nonsense, you'll certainly throw yourself as bad as you was last night.---I vow it's downright suicide."---Then turning to her daughters---"Go, girls"---added she---"go to your apartment directly, and take some rest.---Mrs. Stacey, I am going to have a dish of tea; will you stop and take one with me?"---Mrs. Stacey sat down; her heart was too full to reply.---While they were at tea, Mr. Ormond desired to be laid down; the attendants obeyed.---He lay very still and quiet for some time.---At length, Mrs. Ormond said, "He's in a sweet sleep!"---"I believe he is"---returned Mrs. Stacey---while her mind presaged the worst. Hastily going round to the side of the bed, she drew aside the curtain:---his look struck terror to her heart; she put her hand to his face; it was cold as marble:---she took his hand; pulsation had ceased, and she was in a short time clearly convinced he was gone for ever. With a face, nearly as pale as



that she had been surveying, she returned to Mrs. Ormond. "He sleeps very composed!"---said the latter. "Perfectly so, "Madam"---replied Mrs. Stacey, scarcely knowing what she said, and dreading to inform her of the reality; yet, feeling the necessity for so doing. At length---"Permit me, Madam"---said she---"to request you will retire with me to another room?"---"Why so?"---said Mrs. Ormond, rising and moving towards the bed.---Mrs. Stacey stopped her.---"Ah! go not there, I beseech you!"---said she---"Mr. Ormond is gone---*for ever!*"---The attendants, surprized, ran immediately to see; they confirmed her testimony; and, Mrs. Ormond made most bitter lamentations.---The air resounded with her cries, and the melancholy event was presently known throughout the Abbey.---The grief of the Miss Ormonds' was deep and silent.---In a few hours a messenger was dispatched for Henry:---he came; but, who can speak his distress. I will not attempt it; readers of sensibility will easily imagine it. The day after Mr. Ormond's dissolution, the surviving family quitted the Abbey, to return to Ormond Lodge, whither
the

the corpse was to be conveyed after them in a private manner; Mr. Ormond, having, before his decease, desired to be interred in Somersetshire.

Mr. Westby, at the request of Mrs. Ormond, (conveyed to him in a letter from Henry,) met them at Ormond Lodge; and, with some of the neighbouring gentlemen, attended the interment of Mr. Ormond. That duty paid, the widow produced the will of her late husband, which was opened and read. When--- strange to tell! ---to the utter astonishment of all present, he therein constituted Mrs. Ormond sole executrix, and sole heir to all his property, *real and personal!*---Some small sums for mourning were bequeathed to a few of the old servants; ten guineas to Mrs. Stacey; and, five to each of her children, for the same purpose. His own beloved children he left (as the will expressed it) to the guardianship and discretion of their *excellent* mother, "whose *conjugal and maternal tenderness, rendered her every way worthy such a mark of his confidence.*"---Mr. Ashburton, an eminent attorney of D-----, in Somersetshire, who had been for several years steward to Mr. Ormond's estates; was the person who

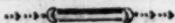
read it. --- When he had concluded the foregoing paragraph, he dropt the paper from his hand; and, with a face rendered pallid, through the emotions of his mind, exclaimed, with trembling agitation,

“ Good God! --- may I believe my eyes?
“ --- Sure my senses deceive me!!”

“ Am I not in a frightful dream?” --- cried Mr. Westby --- “ this can never be a
“ reality, Mr. Ashburton! --- do let me convince myself?”

“ Ah! too sure it is, Sir!” --- replied Ashburton. --- “ It is dated just ten days
“ previous to the decease of testator. Alas!
“ alas! how different is this to the will I
“ made for him, by his directions, soon
“ after the birth of his last child; and
“ which he executed in my presence!”

“ *That*, I suppose” --- said Mr. Westby ---
“ was the will he spoke of to me, at Fountain Abbey; and, then intended should be
“ his *last*. --- Ah!” --- continued he, in a low voice, --- “ Where was my amiable friend’s
“ fine understanding? --- where his natural
“ benevolence? --- where his paternal affection, when he made this will?” --- Turning and addressing Mrs. Ormond, he added
“ --- “ I wonder, Madam, what could induce
“ Mr.



“ Mr. Ormond to make such a disposition
 “ of his fortune! To leave his children
 “ (particularly those up-grown) in such a
 “ state of absolute dependance?”

“ His last will”---returned she, coolly---
 “ I think, Sir, is sufficiently expressive of
 “ his inducement. I know not where he
 “ could have chosen a more proper discre-
 “ tionary guardian for his children, than
 “ *their own mother.*”

“ Perhaps not, Madam;”---resumed Mr.
 Westby---“ but, where there is such a large
 “ property, it is a very uncommon circum-
 “ stance.”---Saying this, he abruptly left
 the room to conceal his emotions; and the
 rest of the gentlemen went away soon after.
 ---In the morning Mr. Westby quitted the
 Lodge, with an heart filled with concern
 for the fate of his late friend’s offspring; to
 whom he determined to devote his future
 services: and, to that end, resolved, if pos-
 sible, to keep upon good terms with Mrs.
 Ormond; whom he now saw was much
 deeper skilled in cunning and artifice, than
 he had before imagined her to be; as he
 was well convinced, that nothing but the
 most consummate art could have caused so
 great an alteration in Mr. Ormond’s inten-

tion, in so short a time. He wished to have made a longer stay at the Lodge, that he might have had an opportunity of trying what he could effect with her in favor of the young folks: but, the business of his office, would, by no means, admit of it.---He was therefore obliged to content himself, with the hope of finding some convenient opportunity of going thither again, in the course of a few months.

It is easy to suppose how great must be the disappointment to Henry Ormond, to find himself, at the age of twenty-two, entirely dependent upon a mother, whose youth and beauty left him no room to suppose she would long continue single. He, however, felt far less for himself than for his sisters, for whom he entertained a most tender affection. He considered, that the practice of his profession, might, in time, render *him* independent: and, he sometimes received consolation from the idea, that it might also enable him to support *them*, should the dreaded event of their mother's second marriage take place. But to fit himself for practice, as a surgeon of eminence and skill, required a long time devoted to improvement in London: and, as that could
not

not be obtained without an heavy expence, he dared not make the proposal to his mother.--- He therefore confined his wishes to his own breast, while he daily regretted the impossibility of realizing them. Henry and his sisters very soon began to experience, that, in losing their father, they had lost their best (if not only) friend.--- In his life time, they had each a very liberal allowance for their pocket expences; and, the poor of the neighbouring villages, daily felt the good effects of their benevolence.--- Mrs. Ormond now thought that allowance too much: and, one day, being alone with her son, she took the opportunity of saying to him,

“ Henry, I think it incumbent upon me
“ to tell you, that, on a rough investigation
“ of my affairs, I find prudence forbids me
“ any longer to continue the large allow-
“ ance of money which your father thought
“ proper to bestow upon you and your
“ sisters. I shall therefore curtail it im-
“ mediately. Indeed, I always thought it
“ an indulgence, highly improper, as it
“ encourages habits of extravagance, in
“ young people, which ought rather to be
“ checked.”

Henry,

THE DISAPPOINTED HEIR.

Henry, unwilling to give her offence, replied not; but bowed submissively, and she proceeded.---“ There is only myself
 “ now to stand the brunt of every thing,
 “ and I must be very cautious in my conduct: for, should I lessen my fortune, so
 “ as to reduce myself to difficulties, I have
 “ no one to look to for assistance. For
 “ this reason, I’ll keep no *bangers-on* about
 “ me. The board and other expences of
 “ Mrs. Stacey and Matilda, amount to a
 “ great deal, and render it necessary *they*
 “ should be dismissed.”

“ But not”---said Henry---“ before the
 “ education of Harriet and Eliza is finished,
 “ I hope, Madam!”

“ *You* hope!”---repeated she, with angry haughtiness---“ *you* hope! ---I thought you
 “ had known your duty better, than to attempt remonstrating with *me*, upon any
 “ subject whatever: however, Sir, notwithstanding your remonstrance, I am resolved to part with them directly. I wish
 “ I could as easily annul the deed of gift:
 “ which is a reward that has been very
 “ ill bestowed, if she has not made Catherine and Margaretta capable of teaching
 “ the others,”---Saying this, Mrs. Ormond
 quitted

quitted the room, and left her son to his own unpleasing meditations. --- In pursuance of her resolution, she dismissed Mrs. Stacey and her daughter, in a few days, to the infinite regret of every inhabitant of the Lodge; and, reduced the finances of her own children disgracefully low. This they submitted to without a murmuring expression, though they felt sincerely concerned, that it was not in their power to bestow their usual benefactions. And, as the winter was severe, and most of the poor round about them, of course, greatly distressed; their concern, at this reduction of their stipends, was much heightened.



CHAP:



CHAPTER XIX.

"Man is born to trouble, as the sparks fly upward."

EARLY in the spring, Mr. Westby again visited Mrs. Ormond, with a determination to conciliate her regard as much as possible, that he might obtain sufficient influence to prevail upon her to make a proper settlement on each of her children. But he might as well have talked to the rocks and hills; for she was equally immoveable.---When he had been a few days at the Lodge, he took the opportunity of being alone with her, to begin the subject; but, she hastily interrupted him, by saying,

"What, Sir! would you advise me
rashly to throw away that power, which the
wisdom

“wisdom and discretion of my late husband
“gave me, for the purpose of securing my
“childrens’ good behaviour, by their entire
“dependance upon me?”

“Pardon me, Madam”---said Mr. Westby
---“for differing in opinion; but, I am
“really inclined to believe, gratitude is a
“much stronger security for filial affec-
“tion, than dependance can be.”

“I think very differently, Sir,”---returned
she---“and so it plainly appears did Mr.
“Ormond; or he would not, of course, have
“acted as he has.”

“True, Madam”---resumed he---“if
“does *appear* so; but, I am apt to think,
“there is one *very* probable event which
“my late worthy friend did not take into
“consideration, when he made his last will;
“which must strike every one else.”

“And pray, my good Sir”---asked Mrs.
Ormond, with a sneer---“what may that
“probable event be? to which you allude.”

“Your second marriage, Madam;”---
returned he,---“an event doubtless to be
“expected, as you are yet a young and a
“very fine woman.”

Her eyes testified her pleasure at the
compliment,

compliment, though her pride and selfishness dictated the following reply :---

“ You compliment me on the advantages
“ of youth and beauty, Mr. Westby, at the
“ expence both of my discretion and my
“ maternal tenderness. It is sufficient for
“ me, however, that Mr. Ormond thought
“ me not too young, nor too indiscreet, to
“ be trusted with the guardianship of my-
“ self and children :---and therefore, that
“ power and authority he has vested in me,
“ I will *certainly* retain.”

Mr. Westby, finding it impossible to bring her to the terms he wished, turned the conversation ; and shortly after went out to walk about the grounds. In his way he met Henry ; they joined, and presently began to converse upon the subject of the late Mr. Ormond's will. Mr. Westby was unwilling to add to the depression of Henry's spirits, therefore, suppressed much of his thoughts upon it ; and, particularly avoided saying any thing of the debate he had just been holding with Mrs. Ormond.---As he strongly apprehended, that his young friend would never inherit an acre of his paternal estate, he warmly recommended to him to push himself forward in his professional line.

line. Henry thanked him for his friendly advice; acknowledged it had been for some time the principal subject of his thoughts, and was what he ardently desired to do: but, had been hitherto withheld, by the fear that it would not meet his mother's concurrence: ---without which, it would be utterly impossible for him to enter upon it.---Mr. Westby directly relieved his mind, by undertaking to speak to Mrs. Ormond upon it, the first moment that appeared favorable for the purpose. The next morning gave him the wished-for opportunity, and he proposed to her to send her son to London, for improvement. To his extreme surprize, she instantly allowed the propriety of the measure, and confessed it to be her wish, that he should not lose time, by a longer continuance at the Lodge, in a state of idleness.---She added, that she understood it to be a very expensive matter; but, to that she would submit without murmuring, for the sake of his future welfare.---It was then determined, that proper preparation should be made for his departing, on the fourth day, from that time.---This point settled to his satisfaction, Mr. Westby went to acquaint Henry with it.

Before

Before we proceed, it seems necessary to account for Mrs. Ormond's sudden appearance of generosity towards her son, and her eager inclination to promote his advantage. The truth is, she felt nothing of either; but, she began to consider him as a spy upon her conduct; and, she entertained so much respect for his understanding, as to make her somewhat afraid of him:---she therefore again wished him any where out of her way; and a proposition so pleasing, and so unexpected, opened her heart to agree, without hesitation, to the expence necessary for the purpose. Henry was as well pleased as his mother, and made a resolution to apply himself with the utmost assiduity to obtain such a degree of improvement, as might, in time, raise him to the top of his profession, and enable him to succour his beloved sisters. As *his* spirits rose at the idea, *theirs* sunk in proportion, at the thought of again being separated from a brother, who was now become more dear to them than ever. The day before his departure, as they were sitting at table after dinner, Mrs. Ormond began to talk to Henry about his intended journey, when poor Catherine, who could
scarce

"This may be mighty pretty to those who
admire beauty in tears!--but, as *I* hate such
soft nonsense, I desire you'll wipe your
eyes, and let me have no more on't."

" Ah ! the tear that from tenderness flows,

"Bids the cheek higher beauties disclose,

Mrs. Ormond, with increased displeasure, interrupted him, by saying,

I should



“I should be far from encouraging them
 “in folly, Madam;”---said Mr. Westby---
 “but, you must permit me to express my
 “admiration of what is really amiable,
 “wherever I meet with it!---Those tears,
 “which flow from fraternal affection, cer-
 “tainly merit that epithet; nor can they
 “ever, with propriety, be deemed a subject
 “for ridicule.”

“They will always be a subject for ridi-
 “cule with *me*, however”---returned Mrs.
 Ormond, haughtily.---“I heartily despise
 “such tenderness!---besides, it is laughed
 “at in all polite companies.”

“Possibly it may, Madam;”---resumed
 he---“but, as I go very little amongst what
 “is termed polite company, it may, per-
 “haps, be owing to *that*, that my breast
 “is not yet steeled against the fascinating
 “charms of sensibility and feeling, properly
 “displayed.”

“*Sensibility and feeling!*”---repeated she,
 drawlingly---“mere *fiddle-faddle* nonsense,
 “which, from what I have seen of the world,
 “those who possess, had better get rid of as
 “fast as they can: since they are always
 “sure to be taxed higher than the rest of
 “his Majesty’s subjects, ha! ha! ha!”

“That

“That they certainly are”---cried he---
“those who have wealth, pay the tax from
“their purse; and, those who have not, pay
“it in sympathy and acts of kindness:---
“and, give me leave to assure you, Mrs.
“Ormond, that the votaries of sensibility,
“had much rather pay, than forego the
“mental pleasure that results from the per-
“formance of every office of humanity and
“benevolence.”

“Oh! no doubt; it must be vastly pleas-
“ing, Sir!”---cried Mrs. Ormond---“to
“weep over tales of distress, and part with
“money to relieve it!- -but people of fashion
“have other ways for their fortunes; and,
“if encumbered by nature with such feel-
“ings, are obliged to throw them off, or
“they’d be laughed out of society. What
“think you, now, Sir”---continued she---
“would become of me and mine, if I in-
“dulged such idle nonsense in myself or
“them:---my house would be perpetually
“haunted by folks in distress; these girls
“would be always in tears; and my pro-
“perty would soon fall a sacrifice to the
“fancied pleasures of benevolence. I assure
“you, there’s distress enough in this vil-
“lage; one-third of my own tenants can
“scarce

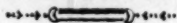
“ scarce get a shoe to their foot. Such
“ would be always coming with their com-
“ plaints ; but, as it is well known, that I
“ never suffer my ears to be assailed with
“ any melancholy ditties, I keep pretty clear
“ of being tormented with their clamors ;
“ and I suppose they get relief, when they
“ want it, from the parish ; to which, I
“ must contribute, as well as others ; and
“ that is quite sufficient.”

Mr. Westby was going to reply, but was prevented, by the entrance of three ladies, who dropt in, *en passant*, to take a friendly dish of tea. They were, doubtless, all *women of fashion*, as they were well received by Mrs. Ormond ; and their conversation had nothing either improving or entertaining in it. Such as it was, Mr. Westby was condemned to the purgatory of bearing it for some time, the weather being unfavorable for walking, or he would much rather have gone in search of Mrs. Ormond's *shoeless* tenants. --- When tea was over, cards were ordered, and he took that opportunity to withdraw. --- The Miss Ormonds', in obedience to a look from their mother, had retired as soon as the visitors entered ; and, Henry presently followed. They had
got

got a good fire in the library, and were seated round it, when Mr. Westby joined them. After a little social conversation, he gave Henry an introductory letter to his brother, Mr. Richard Westby, in London.

“He owes”---said he---“great obligations to your late excellent father; and, will be glad to demonstrate to his representative, that gratitude, which for ever glows in his heart.---Neither my brother, nor I can ever forget, that all we now possess, we owe to the friendship and benevolence of your father.---Yes, my dear young friends, it was he that made us what we are.---You seem surprised,”---continued he---“and, I wonder not at it, for the late Henry Ormond had an heart so noble, that, when he conferred a favor, he considered *himself* as the party obliged, and never spoke of it after; of course, you are all strangers to these circumstances, and so I am *well assured* is your mother.---”Till since his decease, I did not myself, know the extent of my obligations to him:---Mr. Hanmore has lately informed me of it. ---The story is too long to enter upon

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“now; but, you, Henry, will doubtless hear
“it from my brother. --- I thought it neces-
“sary to say thus much, to convince you
“and your sisters, that you have a claim
“upon us, in every exigency; and may
“firmly depend upon our best services. ---
“Mrs. Westby and I have already adopted
“these dear girls. --- We have, alas! no na-
“tural heirs.” --- A deep sigh issued from
his breast. --- “When we are laid in the dust,
“they will inherit our property; which is,
“at least, sufficient to secure to them a
“genteel independency. --- You, my dear
“boy, must push your way through the
“world: --- your abilities exerted in the line
“of your profession, may soon raise you
“to such circumstances, as will make you
“cease to regret the loss of your paternal
“estates.” --- They were now summoned to
supper; and the young ladies, to avoid of-
fending by their tears, bid their beloved bro-
ther farewell, and retired for the night. ---
Mr. Westby and Henry went to the parlor,
where they found Mrs. Ormond alone. --- She
took no notice of the dejection that ap-
peared in her son; but, sat down to table
with more than usual cheerfulness. --- Mr.
Westby was hurt at seeing it: --- he thought
it

it unkind and unnatural. It raised in him some indignation; and, to avoid the expression of it, he, in a few minutes after the cloth was drawn, wished them a good night, and left mother and son together. The door was no sooner shut after him, than the former addressed the latter as follows: ---

“ You must be sensible, Henry, that your
 “ *necessary* expences in London (by which
 “ I would have you understand, I mean
 “ only the expence attending your improve-
 “ ment) will fall heavily upon me; as I
 “ suppose you will be several months be-
 “ fore you are qualified to enter on the
 “ practice; ’till when, you will not be *gain-*
 “ *ing* any thing. You must, therefore, be
 “ as saving as possible in every thing. ---
 “ With respect to the allowance you have
 “ had since I last talked with you on that
 “ subject, I think it proper to say, I have
 “ well considered the matter, and have dis-
 “ covered, that the *generosity* of my *dispo-*
 “ *sition* has carried me beyond the boun-
 “ daries of *prudence*; therefore, you must
 “ not expect me to continue it: --- nor do I,
 “ indeed” --- added she --- “ chuse to fix any
 “ precise sum as a stated allowance. -- I
 “ shall supply you, occasionally, with what
 L 2 “ you

“you want, provided your demands are not too frequent, nor appear to me immoderate.”

“You may, Madam, depend on my implicit obedience to your will,” --- returned he: --- “be assured, I will most carefully avoid every extravagant pursuit; but, allow me, Madam, to observe, that, as my profession is that of a gentleman, it requires me to make the appearance of one; and, to support such an appearance, in London, is not possible, I fear, at a very small expence.”

“But remember, young man” --- said she, with much displeasure in her looks --- “that I *will* have it done at a small expence; or you must find supplies elsewhere.” --- Then adding, coolly, --- “A good journey to you, Sir; I wish you well,” --- she rang for her woman, and left Henry to his own meditations, which were far from the most pleasing. At length, they were interrupted by an old servant, who thought it time to remind him of the expediency of taking some rest, previous to his journey. --- John had lived with Mr. Ormond long before the birth of Henry; and, though now grown old, his heart was not callous. ---

He

He felt a sort of paternal regard for Henry and his sisters, and could not fail being deeply concerned for their situation.--- He found his beloved young master in tears:--- the sight affected him; and, he could no longer restrain his own.

“ Good God ! ” --- he exclaimed --- “ that ever I should live to see this day ! --- but God’s will be done.”

“ What is the matter, John ? ” --- cried Henry, endeavoring to shake off his uneasiness.

“ Ah ! my dear young master ” --- replied John --- “ you bear your sorrows in silence; but, you weep over them in secret; and, my aged heart is wounded by your tears.”

“ It is natural, John ” --- returned Henry --- “ to be distressed at parting with those we love.”

“ Would to heaven that were all your cause of grief ! ” --- cried John. --- “ But, Sir, I know there is a deeper subject of distress in your mind.---A stage coach to travel in ! --- No servant to attend you ! --- These, to be sure, are but trifles; but, even they are more than I can well bear to think of, for the heir

THE DISAPPOINTED HEIR.

“ of this house. --- Pardon me, Sir; but,
“ I do wish you would take me to attend
“ upon you : --- I have saved up near three
“ hundred pounds, which is all at your
“ service.”

Henry was struck with this mark of affection; but, gratefully declined the friendly offer of his money and his services. He would have rejoiced to have had the benefit of the latter, could he have enjoyed it with propriety : --- but, as he knew that was impossible, he took some pains to quiet the mind of old John, by transferring to his sisters the attendance he would have given him. --- After a little more friendly chat, they separated for the night. --- Early in the morning the mail-coach called, and Mr. Westby accompanied Henry to the door of it, followed by all the servants, who, with tears, bade him farewell.

When the coach drove off, Mr. Westby followed it with his eyes, 'till it turned out of sight, then walked into a field, and pursued the path through it, 'till he came to a narrow lane, which he entered, and had gone a few yards, when he saw a small body of men, women, and children
moving

moving slowly towards him, in earnest conversation. On their nearer approach, he heard one say,

“ God bless un!---I hope he’ll get
“ safe!”

“ Ay, and come back soon!”---replied
an old woman---“ that my old eyes may
“ have the pleasure of seeing his sweet
“ face again, before I die.---I sim he’s
“ the best creature in the world!---I
“ hadn’t a been alive to tell you so, if
“ it hadn’t a been for him.”

“ Never fear, dame”---cried a stout
young man---“ God will preserve *be* for
“ the sake of the poor.”

Mr. Westby felt interested in their discourse, and therefore said.

“ Pray, honest friends, who is it you
“ appear to be under such concern for?”

The same young man replied---“ It is
“ young Squire Ormond, your honor:---
“ we have a been to the lane end to see
“ the coach pass, and bid him good bye:
“ ---we didn’t a dare go to the Lodge to
“ take leave of him.”

“ But why should you be afraid of going
“ to the Lodge?”---said Mr. Westby---
“ you could never imagine Mrs. Ormond

“ would be displeased at any mark of respect shewn to her only son ! ”

“ Please your honor ” --- returned the man - - “ you have not been much here of late years ; and, there have a been a power of alterations since that time. When the old Squire was alive, things were different : --- he made his tenants comfortable, and did a great many charities ; though, I believe, of late years, he did most of that unknown to Madam, as Mr. John, the old footman, says : --- for the good old Squire loved peace and quietness, and so thought it best to be secret. --- Ah ! it’s a thousand pities his honor made such a sad will : --- for, now Madam holds all in her own hands ; she doesn’t a let the young Squire and young Madams’ have near so much money at command as they used to have ; and, by reason o’ that, the *poor* volks are sufferers. They can’t do as they did once, though they do a power o’ good now, with what little they have. --- But this must be kept all secret too, for fear o’ Madam Ormond’s anger. Nobody knows nothing about it, but old Mr. John.”

“ I am

"I am very sorry"---said Mr. Westby
 ---"to hear things are so bad with Mrs.
 Ormond, as to render it necessary for
 her to lessen their former pecuniary
 privileges."

"Bless your honor!!"---cried the man,
 eagerly---"Madam doesn't a do it because
 it's *necessary*!---no! every body knows
 as she's left very rich!---Madam does
 it only for savingness; and there are
 some volk as do not scruple to say"---
 continued he, with a kind of arch leer---
 that she is saving up for another hus-
 band to spend."

"No! I hope not!---I hope not!"---
 cried Mr. Westby, though he could not
 avoid thinking the man had a pretty
 shrewd guess at her intentions---"but
 you know"---continued he---"there's
 a large family to be provided for, and
 women are in general very attentive to
 the interest of their children, so-----"

"Ah! your honor, I wish it was so
 there!"---interrupted he---"but that's
 the worst on't, Madam doesn't a seem to
 be over and above fond of any on 'em.
 Your honor knows, if she loved 'em
 much, she'd a give them *more* money,
 L 5 "instead

“instead of *less*, now that she makes the estate produce one-third more than it did in the old gentleman’s time.”

“How!---what!”---cried Mr. Westby, in the utmost surprize---“which way has she done that?”

“Nothing easier, please your honor!”---returned he, drily.---“She has put all to rack-rents.---Several leases are now nearly out, and Madam won’t renew, without raising the rents so high, that the farmers say they shall hardly be able to pay it, and live comfortably.---And as to us poor cottagers, we can scarce manage to live at all.---There’s my wife and I work very hard from Monday morning to Saturday night, and yet we can hardly subsist with decency. The money that should go to buy good wholesome victuals for us and our children, is forced all to be laid up to pay rent with, or else we must turn out. The good old Squire didn’t a do so by us:---he’d always rather serve us than hurt us.”

“Well”---resumed Mr. Westby---“you have surprized me, indeed!---I never heard a word of this before; but,”

“but,”---correcting himself---“to be
 “sure Mrs. Ormond must be the best
 “judge of her own affairs.”---He then
 added---“Pray, my friend, how many
 “children have you?”

“*Only ten, Sir!*”---replied the man---
 “and another expected next month.”

Mr. Westby's heart ached for the poor fellow; he put a guinea into his hand, wished him a good day, and turned off another way to the Lodge.---The Miss Ormonds' were already in the breakfast-parlor:---it was perceptible they had been weeping:---he had just time to request they would endeavor to appear cheerful before Mrs. Ormond joined them.---While they sat at breakfast, a note came from Lady Thornby; Mrs. Ormond opened, and, after reading, laid it on the table before Mr. Westby:---“Read it, Sir”---said she---“*your* answer is necessary.”---He did as she desired, and found the contents as follows:---

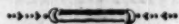
“DEAR MADAM,

“It is with pain I inform you my sweet
 “Jane is this morning greatly indisposed;
 “she complains of a sore throat. Doctor

L 6

“W-----

THE DISAPPOINTED HEIR.



" W----- has been here ; he assures me
 " it is not of the epidemic kind, and that
 " I have no reason to alarm myself, as
 " her disorder is only the consequence of
 " a cold, from which there is not the least
 " danger to be apprehended. His assu-
 " rances have given so much ease to my
 " mind, that I should think it unneces-
 " sary to put off your visit, did I not
 " know you to have an unconquerable
 " aversion to a sick house ; I suppose
 " from a dread of its contagion. Mr.
 " Westby and the Miss Ormonds', are
 " not, I believe, under the dominion of
 " such fears ; we shall, therefore, hope
 " for the pleasure of seeing them, ac-
 " cording to promise ; and I trust they
 " will be so indulgent to the tenderness
 " of a fond mother, as to pardon the free-
 " dom I shall use of ordering dinner to
 " be served up in my daughter's dressing-
 " room, as I dare not yet permit her to
 " leave her own apartment.

" I have the honor to be,

" Dear Madam,

" Your's, sincerely,

" THORNBY."

Tuesday morning, Park-Hill Place.

In

In consequence of the foregoing, Mr. Westby and the Miss Ormonds' went to Park-Hill together.

The spirits of Lady Jane revived at the presence of her friends, and she strove to dissipate their concern for her, by an assumed cheerfulness; but her looks sufficiently proved she was far from well; and, early in the evening, they left her, with minds much disquieted. The answer to the message of enquiry after her next morning, did not tend to make them easier; but, on the following day Catherine and Margaretta Ormond visited her again, and had the satisfaction to find her much better. --- They left her with reluctance, being obliged to shorten their visit, on account of its being the last day of Mr. Westby's stay at the Lodge.





CHAPTER XX.

"The world was all before *him*, where to chuse—
"His place of rest;—and providence *his* guide."—

MILTON.

FROM what my readers have already seen of Mrs. Ormond, they will not imagine that she made her son's purse very weighty at his departure; and will, perhaps, censure his imprudence, when they learn, that on his arrival in London a little before the hour of four in the morning, he got into a hack, and drove to the hotel in the Adelphi. --- He might, without doubt, have gone to numberless other places, where he could have had very decent accommodation, at a much less expence; but, it is to be considered, he had been in London only once before, and that for so short a time, he was very little acquainted with the place; and,
as

as his father, who was then with him, made choice of that house to reside in during their stay, it was not unnatural, that it should be the first to occur to the thoughts of Henry.---Those who know the world, (particularly those who have experienced the vicissitudes of life) must have observed, that it is not quite so easy to forget former affluence, in a state of adversity, as to forget former poverty, in a state of exaltation. It rarely happens, that any one is *suddenly* plunged from the heights of grandeur to the abyss of poverty; such an event would be almost insupportable to human nature. That afflictions of *that* sort are generally gradual and progressive, afford us a most striking proof both of the wisdom and the mercy of Him, who is the supreme governor of the universe. Henry Ormond's circumstances were not yet *sunk*; they were only *sinking*, and that, perhaps, faster than he imagined; for he saw nothing improper in making choice of the Adelphi, nor had he any idea of the inconveniency of the expence, 'till he felt it.---He therefore ordered a bed to be got ready directly; and, having desired to be called about eleven, went to it, and slept as undisturbed and sweetly as if
he

he had really been in possession of his paternal inheritance. His breakfast was on the table when he arose; a newspaper amused him during the repast:---when that was ended, the hair-dresser appeared; and, being completely equipped, he went out upon the business most necessary to promote his future advancement. Having paid his fees, and entered himself at the different places as a student to attend lectures, walk hospitals, &c. he returned to the Adelphi to dinner, at half past five in the afternoon, when, finding he had not entirely overcome the fatigue of travelling, he determined to stay in the house all the evening, retire early to rest, and postpone his visit to Mr. Richard Westby, and his search for a private lodging 'till the next morning; when, rising much earlier than the preceding day, he called for his breakfast and his bill:---they were brought together, and the latter, though he could by no means deem it an extravagant charge for the manner in which he had been accommodated, was nevertheless sufficient to frighten him, whose finances were so slender, that, after paying the amount, he found the contents of his purse reduced to something less than *three guineas*.

guineas. He became thoughtful, and resolved to profit by this dear-bought experience. A private lodging was now the first object of his pursuit. In passing through a street, he saw at a window a paper, on which was written "genteel lodging and board, if required, for a single person." He knocked at the door; it was opened by a maid servant, who, on his telling his business, conducted him into a parlor, where sat her master and mistress, an old gentleman and lady. The latter rose and attended him to view the apartment, which consisted of a small bed-chamber, a dressing-closet, and a drawing-room on the first floor. He was so much pleased with the appearance of the place, that, unhackneyed in the ways of the world, he could not avoid *expressing* his approbation of the rooms, and his admiration of the elegant neatness of every thing about them. Having taken a sufficient survey, they returned to the parlor to settle the terms. Fortunately for Henry, he was not with those who were likely to take a mean advantage of his youthful simplicity. Mr. and Mrs. Northington were persons of strict honor. They were not reduced to the necessity of letting lodgings for support;
nor

nor did they pretend to do it merely for the sake of company. Mr. Northington had formerly been in the army, but, having received a wound which had disabled him for farther service, was retired upon a captain's half-pay. Having no family but his lady and himself, it had sufficed to support them with gentility, 'till the rapid advance of every necessary of life, determined them to add some little to their income, by taking an inmate. They frankly told Henry their motive; and he, with an equal return of frankness, told them his business in town, and his entire dependance upon his professional merit for future support.---He avoided making any mention of his family, his former splendid prospects, or his late disappointment; but, gave them to understand clearly, that his resources were not such as would admit of his living expensively, while he continued a student.---There was an honest openness in the countenance of Henry, which stamped the seal of truth on all he uttered:---it obtained the perfect credence of Captain Northington and his lady.---In the course of a short conversation, he gained upon them so much, that they could not avoid feeling
interested

interested in his welfare.---They wished to enjoy his society and his confidence; and, to preserve him from the contagion of vice.---They therefore lowered the terms they first mentioned to him, and an agreement was immediately made between them and Henry for board and lodging.---The latter then rose up to go, saying, he should return in the evening.---Captain Northington enquired if he was particularly engaged to dinner?---he replied in the negative:---“then Sir,”---cried the Captain---“you must allow me to enlist you into my “corps, for the rest of the day:---our “dinner will be ready presently, I hope “you will partake of it with as much pleasure; and I am sure it will be at a much “less expence than dining at the hotel.”

Henry thanked him for his consideration, readily consented to stop, and in the company of the Captain and Mrs. Northington, totally forgot his intention of visiting Mr. Richard Westby that day; nor did a recollection of that gentleman once occur to his mind, till he was undressing to go to bed.---He was a little vexed he had omitted it, but determined to go thither in the morning.

Little

Little mention has been made of Mr. Richard Westby, since his arrival at those years, when his character might be said to be formed. It therefore appears necessary to delineate it now; but, as it is one at present really in existence, (though under a borrowed name) I shall restrain my pen upon the subject; from a consciousness, that it is so *superlatively excellent*, I am incapable of doing justice to it; and so *peculiar*, that I almost fear to touch upon it, lest my unskilful hand should involuntarily cast a blemish on a mind, in which penetration, united with candor, would allow nothing could be discovered, but beauty formed by the hands of virtue and piety. In Mr. Richard Westby, religion appeared in her most captivating garb; never unattended by her fairest handmaid Benevolence. The sacred writings---not the opinions of men---governed his actions, and were the foundation on which his principles and opinions were formed.---His manners were easy, affable, and engaging.---His temper perfectly uniform:---gentle, and mild as a summer breeze.---His disposition kind, sympathetic, and humane.---The following lines, from
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THE DISAPPOINTED HEIR.

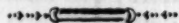


an admired author, thus transposed, may, with infinite justice, be applied to him:---

"His heart no selfish cares confin'd,
 "He felt for all that feel distress:—
 "And still benevolent and kind,
 "He bless'd them—or he wish'd to bless.
 * * * * *

"*His* were those feelings of the mind,
 "Awake to honor's friendship's call:—
 "Benevolence, that unconfin'd
 "Extends her lib'ral hand to all.
 "By Sympathy's untutor'd voice,
 "Was taught her social laws to keep:—
 "To joy, if human heart rejoice;
 "To weep, if human eye *should* weep."

Manly sense, sound judgment, and deep learning distinguished his conversation on serious or interesting subjects; while, on others more lively, he displayed a brilliancy of imagination, and a flow of wit, that entertained all, without wounding the feelings of any.---Such was the man to whom Henry was going to be introduced:---he had passed the meridian of life in a state of celibacy, and in the situation of clerk in a merchant's compting-house.---His merit had raised him to the rank of a partner, about ten years before; and the last seven years he was at the head of the house.---He had acquired a genteel competency, and having no desire
 to



to amass great riches, was beginning to withdraw, by degrees, from the cares and fatigues of business.---His residence was in a pleasant village about two miles from the metropolis, and delightfully situated.---The weather was inviting, and Henry preferred walking thither, to lolling in one of the hourly stages.---He found Mr. Richard Westby at home, and delivered him his brother's letter.---When he had read it, he held out his hand, and, with a look of benignity and affection, said,---

“ My dear Sir, I rejoice to see you :---
 “ my brother has pleased me much by this
 “ introduction.---I loved your father!---ten-
 “ derly loved him!---he was more than a
 “ father to me!---and, I shall ever revere
 “ his memory, and regret his loss.---You
 “ must be dear to me for his sake, if not for
 “ your own.” ---He turned away to the win-
 “ dow to hide a starting tear.---In less than a
 “ minute, he resumed,---“ You and I, Mr.
 “ Ormond, ought to have known each other
 “ long ago;---but, certain circumstances
 “ combined to deprive me of enjoyments,
 “ that ----- however, we'll drop the sub-
 “ ject at present;---'tis an unpleasing one;
 “ ---and, I should be sorry to render your
 “ first

“first visit so disagreeable, as to deter you
“from repeating it:---on the contrary, I
“flatter myself with a hope of seeing you
“often here.”---Henry bowed assent, and
Mr. Westby proceeded.---“I have lately
“been reading Lavater; and, if his skill in
“physiognomy errs not, your countenance
“tells me, I shall derive infinite pleasure
“from your society.---I am this day, Mr.
“Ormond, entirely disengaged; if you are
“the same, favor me with your company
“for the rest of it?”

Henry cheerfully accepted the invitation, and the time was spent so much to their mutual satisfaction, that they parted with equal regret.---When Henry got home to his lodging, the Captain and Mrs. Northington expressed great pleasure at his return.

“I thank you, Mr. Ormond”---said the latter---“for being so considerate. I do
“assure you, the pleasure we derived from
“your company yesterday, makes us al-
“ready sensibly feel your absence. We
“have missed you at the dinner and tea-
“table, and if you had staid much longer,
“we should really have been apprehensive
“for your safety.”

Henry

Henry sat down and conversed with them for the space of two hours, and was more than ever pleased with them.---On retiring for the night, he congratulated himself on having been so fortunate as to fix his residence with such amiable beings.---He reflected on the pleasure he had enjoyed in their company, and in that of Mr. Richard Westby, and determined to conciliate their friendship, and seek for no other society.---Mr. Richard Westby called upon Henry the next day at his lodgings, when the latter introduced him to Captain Northington, who invited him to dine with them; and thus laid the foundation of a future intimacy, with which each was well pleased.

END OF THE FIRST VOLUME.

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